

## Sharon says he was offered Israel's defence ministry

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said on Sunday that he was asked by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to replace ousted defence minister Yitzhak Mordechai but refused. "He offered me the post and I refused. I told him that I am quite content where I am," Sharon said in a live interview with public television. On Saturday Netanyahu fired Mordechai, finalising the rupture between the two rivals ahead of May elections. Netanyahu immediately said he had asked former defence minister Moshe Arens, an elder statesman who had been leading an internal revolt against the prime minister inside the governing Likud party, to return to the post.

Volume 24 Number 7053

## Gunmen kill 30 people in eastern Angola ambush

LUANDA (AP) — Gunmen killed 30 people, including police officers, and wounded several others in an ambush on two vehicles in northeastern Angola, according to news reports Sunday. The attack occurred Saturday on the road from Saurimo to Luena, about 800 kilometres east of the capital Luanda, the private Radio Ecclisia reported. The radio said that survivors blamed the attack on the UNITA rebel group, which has been battling the government's army since a two-decade civil war resumed last month after four years of fragile peace.

## 18 dead, 40 injured in Austria crash

GRAZ (AP) — Eighteen people were killed and 40 others injured, 25 seriously, when a bus carrying Hungarian tourists crashed near Deutschlandsberg, in southeast Austria, police said. The bus skidded off the road for unknown reasons and plunged several metres onto a field.

## Colombia death squad chief offers truce to rebels

BOGOTA (R) — The leader of Colombia's most feared ultra-right death squad said in an interview published on Sunday that he would call a truce if his Marxist guerrilla enemies stopped kidnapping civilians. But Carlos Castano, head of an outlawed paramilitary alliance known as the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC), said he would not lay down his weapons until the rebels halted their long-running war to topple the state. "The self-defence forces do not want to create an obstacle for the peace process. We would be ready to declare a ceasefire," Castano said in remarks in this week's edition of the Cambio political magazine.

## Woman immolates self in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — An unidentified woman poured a flammable liquid over herself and set herself on fire Sunday evening near Moscow University. She died as police arrived, the Interfax news agency reported. Passersby had tried to put out the flames, but failed to save the woman, Interfax said. No motive for the suicide has been established.

## Belgian, Dutch authorities agree on deportations

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgium and the Netherlands will jointly carry out forced deportations, flying rejected asylum applicants home in corporate jets, the Belgian interior ministry announced Sunday. The two governments will finalise the details of the joint immigration plan by late February, Interior Minister Luc Van den Boosch told Flemish VTM television. The plan is the result of recommendations published Friday by an immigration commission appointed after the death of a Nigerian asylum seeker during her forced deportation from Belgium last year. The commission recommended that immigration authorities should not use commercial airlines for forced expulsions.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية - الرأي

## Clinton lacks respect for presidency, Bush says

RENO (AP) — Former President George Bush thinks Bill Clinton lacks respect for the presidency, but believes the country will bounce back after Clinton's impeachment trial ends. "I have tried to stay out of all the Washington mess," Bush said Saturday at the end of a keynote address to the Safari Club International's 27th annual hunters' convention. "But I must confess I have been deeply concerned by what appears to be a lack of respect for the office I was so very proud to hold." Speaking to an audience of international big-game hunters and conservationists, Bush was confident any national embarrassment caused by Clinton's sex scandal would be short-lived.

## Iraqi FM storms out of ministerial meeting

# Sahhaf slams Arab states for 'plotting' against Iraq



Security personnel keep the press away as Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf storms out of an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on Sunday (AFP photo)

reporters the statement was "a cover up for maintaining forever the U.N. embargo."

"This statement is a mockery," Najim, an undersecretary at the Iraqi foreign ministry, told reporters at the Nile-front headquarters of the 22-member Arab League.

Baghdad wanted Arab foreign ministers to defy the crippling sanctions which the U.N. Security Council slapped on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It also wanted a strong and united Arab condemnation of last month's U.S. and British air strikes on Iraq.

But in their final statement the foreign ministers did not call for an immediate lifting of the sanctions and did not con-

demn outright the U.S.-British strikes.

Instead they voiced their "deep concern and preoccupation over the use of military force against Iraq" and underlined "the need to multiply international efforts directed at lifting the embargo as soon as possible."

They further angered Baghdad by demanding an Iraqi apology for its invasion of Kuwait and by demanding that Iraq "immediately stop provoking its neighbours," linking this to future efforts aimed at lifting the embargo.

The statement urged Iraq "to take the necessary steps to prove its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and other neighbours by admitting that

the Kuwaiti invasion was an error."

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were adamant that Iraq should apologise for the invasion.

The Arab foreign ministers also called for a "diplomatic solution to implement all the resolutions of the Security Council concerning Iraq" and urged Baghdad "to cooperate with the Security Council in implementing these resolutions."

They set up a committee to follow up on efforts to lift the U.N. sanctions made up of Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, as well as one other North African country and the Arab member of the U.N. Security Council.

## Iraq boosting southern defences, governor says U.S. planes bomb Iraqi missile sites in north

### Agencies

IRAQ IS boosting its air defences in the south, but is not threatening Kuwait, the governor of the southern city of Basra said.

"We are prepared for all eventualities," Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash told reporters late on Saturday when asked about reports that Iraq was sending extra military hardware to the area.

"The reinforcements are there. They are air defence reinforcements," he said, adding that Iraq would continue to challenge planes patrolling the Western-imposed no-fly zone.

"Everything we can reinforce, we are reinforcing.

More than that I cannot say," he said.

An Iraqi opposition group said on Friday that Iraq has been building up its armed forces, including missile systems, in the south since mid-December. The remarks followed a report that military convoys, including tanks, were seen heading south.

"Certainly, these moves are exceptional," rather than routine, the governor said. But he added that they represented a normal response for a country facing a threat.

Asked about the no-fly zones, the governor said: "We will challenge this aggression, and will continue to challenge it. We will not accept a mandate of anyone

upon us," he said.

On Sunday, U.S. fighter planes bombed two Iraqi surface-to-air missile systems in northern Iraq, according to a statement released by the U.S. military at Incirlik air base in Turkey.

An F-16 "Strike Eagle" fighter plane likely scored a "direct hit" on the Iraqi surface-to-air missile site "which posed a threat to coalition forces in the region," the statement said.

In a second incident, U.S. EA-6B and F-16C aircraft fired anti-radar missiles at another Iraqi missile site near Mosul in northern Iraq, the statement said.

"Damage to Iraqi forces is currently being assessed," it added. "There was no damage to coalition aircraft, and all aircraft landed safely" at Incirlik.

(Continued on page 7)

## Lower House congratulates King on his recovery, return

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday congratulated His Majesty King Hussein on his recovery and safe return home and thanked God for blessing the King with His care.

Addressing his colleagues, House Speaker Abdul Hadi Majali hailed the return of the King as a historic moment for the Kingdom and the Jordanian people.

"On your behalf, I congratulate the King on his recovery and safe return home and also express gratitude and appreciation of the kings, heads of state, leaders of Arab countries and officials who have expressed their heartfelt congratulations to the King, wishing him a speedy recovery from his illness, particularly Saudi Arabia.

Morocco, Oman, Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Sudan and Lebanon," said Majali at the outset of a regular Parliament session.

Majali also thanked friendly nations whose leaders expressed their solidarity with Jordan and sent good wishes to the King during his treatment in the U.S. for cancer.

Majali said Parliament voiced its special gratitude to U.S. President Bill Clinton who, he said, stood by the King during his stay in the U.S. and who made available the best medical treatment and specialists to help the King overcome his illness.

Majali also expressed the House's appreciation of the team of doctors at the Mayo Clinic and also to all people around the world who have wished the King a speedy recovery.

Majali implored God to bless the King with continued good health so that he may continue to lead Jordanians towards further progress and prosperity.

Addressing the House, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said the Cabinet shares with the parliamentarians their true feelings of affection and loyalty to the King, wishing him continued good health.

The prime minister said the people's true feelings and love for the King were expressed in their enthusiastic welcome of their leader upon his return to Amman by turning out in great numbers, braving the rain and inclement weather to express their joy.

## Mordechai to join new party

### Netanyahu says former defence minister a 'loser'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Outgoing Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai announced on Sunday he was leaving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud to join a centrist party to challenge the Israeli leader in a May election.

Asked if he had not waited too long to leave Likud, Mordechai told Israel's Channel Two: "I am exactly at the right time going on a new path with wonderful people."

Mordechai said ex-army chief Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and former Likud members Roni Milo and Dan Meridor were also joining the new party.

Mordechai's announcement came 24-hours after Netanyahu fired him for consorting with his political opponents.

Earlier on Sunday, Netanyahu and Mordechai exchanged harsh criticism, accusing each other of deceit as the forthcoming election battle took shape.

Mordechai has yet to say whether he will lead the new party.

In his final cabinet meeting as defence chief, Mordechai, 54, donned a skullcap and read a verse from the Book of Psalms implying Netanyahu was a liar and an enemy of peace.

"Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and a deceitful tongue," Mordechai said, citing Psalm 120.

"My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war," he said.

Mordechai, a relative dove, has criticised Netanyahu's suspension of the land-for-security peace accord they negotiated with the Palestinians last October and had for weeks been weighing his political future in their ruling Likud Party.

Netanyahu on Saturday night fired Mordechai, who tops the polls as the most popular cabinet minister, and accused him of plotting to oust the Likud government in elections next May as a leader in the new centrist party.

"He organised a conspiracy to topple the government in which he was serving," Netanyahu, 49, told Israel Radio on Sunday.

He said he had offered the defence ministry job to former Defence Chief Moshe Arens, who said he would answer the offer only after internal Likud elections on Monday, which he is expected to lose to Netanyahu.

Mordechai, born in Iraqi Kurdistan, would be the first candidate for prime minister representing Israel's Sephardic Jewish majority with roots in Middle Eastern or North African countries.

"And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee for thou hast rejected the work of the Lord and the Lord has rejected thee from being king over Israel," reads verse 26.

## Politicians, activists reiterate call for reforms to strengthen democracy

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Deputies and political activists on Sunday reiterated their call for political reforms, saying they hoped that any change in the line of succession to the Throne would be coupled with reforms that would enhance the country's infant democracy.

They said they hoped that a "comprehensive review" promised by His Majesty King Hussein in a televised address to the nation from London prior to his return home on Tuesday would include the introduction of more liberal laws — especially those dealing with press freedoms and parliamentary elections.

King Hussein, the region's longest-serving ruler, has yet to spell out the changes he intends to introduce to consolidate Jordan's stability and strengthen democratic reforms he initiated in 1989. But mounting speculation in the

capital's elite circles over the past few days has only focused on the issue of succession.

It is the King's constitutional prerogative and right to choose his crown prince," a senior official told the Jordan Times.

"And no one is questioning that."

Officials yesterday also brushed aside some concerns raised at home and abroad about the foreign policies of the Kingdom, a crucial and patient partner in the Middle East peace process and a key Western ally.

A feeling of anticipation gripping the nation as it awaits the King's announcement of his "thoughts and ideas" for the country's future did not affect banks and the Amman Financial Market — often a barometer of popular sentiments.

The Kingdom will always forge ahead with the policies of peace and moderation that the King has pursued for decades and that have

always been clear to everybody," said a senior official.

In addition to revising the succession, politicians said the King has difficult decisions to take on water, poverty, unemployment, corruption, administrative reform and the country's economic downturn.

While the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian peace process is casting a heavy shadow over the region, lawmakers and politicians insisted on the urgency of introducing new election and press laws and the need for a review of the 1952 Constitution to enhance the role of Parliament, further protect human rights, and "modernise" the political system.

The appointment of a new crown prince and democratic reforms are two separate issues," said Abdul Latif Araby, secretary general of Jordan's strongest party, the Islamic Action Front. "It is up to His Majesty King Hussein to introduce reforms any time he decides, regardless of who his heir is," he added.

Leftist Deputy Nazih Ammar (Karak) said altering the line of succession was "not the change" that politicians were seeking.

"We want changes in the press law, new electoral regulations, and a comprehensive review of the country's economic path," he told the Jordan Times.

The government and the Islamists-led opposition have been at loggerheads since the introduction of the election law in 1993 that brought the one-person, one-vote system to unequally divided constituencies.

Further amendments in 1997 to an already restrictive press law and an historic decision to boycott the November 1997 elections by the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, joined by nine opposition parties and the 80,000-strong Union of Professional Associations, as well as a list of more than 80 prominent politicians, added further fuel to the

fire.

Despite orders from the King to carry out a national dialogue with all sectors of society, the five-month-old government of Fayez Tarawneh and the opposition have so far failed to make much headway, according to analysts and observers.

Several politicians and writers have seriously doubted that the much-talked about dialogue could ever lead to national reconciliation unless the government showed real intention to amend the elections and press laws — key pillars in a democracy.

The contention among politicians is that the government would not venture into amending those two laws unless it got the go ahead from the King.

Some also said several reforms were needed to guarantee the separation and integrity of the three branches of power.

A former minister, Jamal Shaeer, a

veteran Ba'athist who has written extensive articles on the Constitution, told the Jordan Times in a recent interview that the country's national statute needed "first to be respected, and second to be amended, if we want to arrest the degradation of our political system."

Reformists of all shades have long said they would like to see a more independent judiciary, an extension to the four-month term for ordinary parliamentary sessions, and the abrogation of certain laws that limit citizens' constitutional rights.

"Have we forgotten all about the National Charter?" asked a former minister. Drafted in 1992 to push the country into a new era of liberalisation and political and social reconciliation after more than three decades of martial law, the National Charter called, among other things, for the establishment of a Constitutional Court, which has yet to become a reality.

## Iraq ready to say sorry, but says Arabs should also apologise

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq sees no shame in apologising for its mistakes, provided other Arab countries do the same, the deputy prime minister said in unusually conciliatory comments published Sunday.

Iraq's demand for an apology from other countries appears directed against Kuwait, which Baghdad has historically accused of stealing its oil. The accusation helped lead to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the 1991 Gulf War in which U.S.-led allies evicted Iraqi troops.

"If we want to open a new page, and Iraq is required to apologise for an incident, it will come within a collective apology that is just. We are ready for that," Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz was quoted as saying by Iraq's most influential newspaper, Babel.

The comments are a surprising reversal in Iraq's hardline attitude against some Arab countries — chiefly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — for supporting the mid-December airstrikes on the country by the United States and Britain.

The timing of Aziz's comments are significant: they were published the day the 22-member Arab League began a meeting in Cairo to discuss Iraq's demand to condemn the U.S.-British airstrikes and call for Arab defiance of U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq.

In recent weeks, President Saddam Hussein had called on Arabs to overthrow their pro-American governments. Even Aziz, in lengthy newspaper commentaries, hurled insults at Arab leaders.

But Aziz, in his conciliatory remarks, invoked Arab solidarity and justified the

need for apologising by saying "after all, in the end, we are all sons of one tribe and mistakes could happen between us."

Babel picked up Aziz's comments from an interview he gave to Beirut's Al Nahar newspaper. It didn't say when Aziz spoke with Al Nahar.

"I don't say Iraq didn't make mistakes against this or that, but everybody has committed mistakes," Aziz said.

"If we all apologised to each other for all the mistakes we have committed, then we will be ready... because apologising is not a shame between brothers," he added.

Iraq had repeatedly sought to justify the Kuwait invasion, which led to the imposition of U.N. trade sanctions.

Under the Gulf War ceasefire conditions, the sanctions cannot be lifted until Iraq is

certified by a U.N. arms commission as free of weapons of mass destruction.

The United States and Britain, which are opposed to lifting of the sanctions, had bombarded Iraq to punish it after U.N. arms inspectors said Baghdad was blocking their work.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has blamed Saddam for his country's woes and few Arab governments appear ready to break the sanctions. Still, Iraq is banking on the massive public sympathy among Arab people.

In the streets of Baghdad, there is high hope that the Arab League meeting will turn the tide in Iraq's favour.

"We ask some of the Arab leaders to face America, which wants to colonise the Arab countries," said Saad Al Hilli, a shopper.



PLAYING WITH SNOW: A Lebanese family decorates Sunday a snowman on their car during an outing in the Lebanon mountain area of Dahr Al Baydar, east of Beirut. A snowstorm has hit Lebanon in the past few days covering a wide range of the Mediterranean country with a white blanket (AFP photo)

## No return to situation before air strikes — Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — There can be no return to the situation regarding U.N. arms inspections which prevailed before last month's U.S. and British air strikes on Iraq, Baghdad's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Saturday.

But, speaking to a visiting Spanish delegation accompanied by journalists, he added that Iraq was speaking to France about Paris's ideas for emerging from the current deadlock.

"There will be no return

to the past," Aziz said, reiterating Baghdad's refusal to allow the return of the arms inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM).

Iraq accuses the inspectors of spying for the United States and Israel, and of

submitting a deliberately negative report on Baghdad's cooperation to the U.N., paving the way for the air strikes.

Accepting their return would mean that Iraq had given in to aggression, Aziz said.

He added that the government was prepared to cooperate with France "on the basis of justice," but said the French plan was not likely to become a reality because Britain and the United States were opposed to it.

Paris proposed on Jan. 13 that the commission monitoring Iraq's disarmament be revamped, that the embargo on its oil exports be lifted, and that new surveillance measures be introduced to prevent the rebuilding of weapons of mass destruction.

British diplomats left Khar-

to the past," Aziz said, reiterating Baghdad's refusal to allow the return of the arms inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM).

Iraq accuses the inspectors of spying for the United States and Israel, and of

submitting a deliberately negative report on Baghdad's cooperation to the U.N., paving the way for the air strikes.

Accepting their return would mean that Iraq had given in to aggression, Aziz said.

## Sudan says Britain blocks better ties with Europe

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan accused Britain of obstructing better relations with the European Union as ministers from two EU member states began visits to see at first hand the impact of Sudan's long-running civil war.

"Britain has tended to adopt extreme attitudes against Sudan," Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail said on Saturday in remarks reported by the Sudanese news agency SANA.

Ismail was referring to Tony Blair's statements of support for a U.S. missile attack on the Shifa pharmaceuticals factory on the outskirts of Khartoum in August.

British diplomats left Khar-

to the past," Aziz said, reiterating Baghdad's refusal to allow the return of the arms inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM).

Iraq accuses the inspectors of spying for the United States and Israel, and of

submitting a deliberately negative report on Baghdad's cooperation to the U.N., paving the way for the air strikes.

Accepting their return would mean that Iraq had given in to aggression, Aziz said.

They are considering moves by the party rebels as illegal.

Benbabbache said early this month that army generals were pressuring his party's members to back Bouteflika. Among Benbabbache's supporters in the party is Mohammad Bettache, a former top aide to Zeroual and ex-military intelligence chief.

The RND has 156 seats in the 380-member parliament and its members control most government ministries. Its junior partners are the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Islamist-based Movement for a Peaceful Society (MPS).

Former Foreign Minister

Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and a former adviser to Zeroual, Yousef Al Khatib, sent a letter on Sunday to the president urging him to dismiss 12 ministers who had announced their support for Bouteflika.

Ibrahimi and Al Khatib, who are both candidates in the election, said they feared government bias towards Bouteflika as the cabinet is in charge of conducting the vote.

The government has repeatedly vowed to ensure a fair competition between all candidates.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

The government has repeatedly vowed to ensure a fair competition between all candidates.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algeria has been racked by violence and political instability

## Police suspect 'crime of honour' in case of slain woman

By Rana Husseini

AMMAN — Police are questioning a man and his son in connection with the suspected murder of the man's 45-year-old Iraqi wife late Friday night, according to official sources.

The victim, Manal Jalal, was reportedly shot in the early morning hours while she was sleeping, the source said, adding that her 11-year-old son confessed to shooting his mother.

However, the source said police are focusing their investigation on the father and suspect a possible crime of honour.

"The son informed authorities that he was playing with his father's gun around 2:00 a.m. when a bullet was accidentally fired striking his mother's head," the source said.

But he added that the authorities are not con-

vinced by the son's confes-

sion.

"It is possible that the father may have shot his wife himself or encouraged his son to do so," the source told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"The husband had reported his wife missing last week for four days, and had also complained to authorities that he suspected her of 'immoral behaviour,'" the source said.

The couple had been wed for 17 years.

Pathologists Mo'men Hadidi and Hani Jahshan performed an autopsy on Saturday, which revealed that the woman received a sole bullet wound to the left side of her skull.

Samples of her tissues and blood were sent to the Criminal Lab for examination, the source said.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Sunday evening said they were continuing to investigate the

incident.

If proven that the woman was killed for 'immoral behaviour,' Manal will be the first woman reportedly killed in the Kingdom in the name of honour this year. Last year, officials said that more than 20 women reportedly were killed in 1998 in crimes of honour.

His Majesty King Hussein and the government are working hard to end such practices, which claim the lives of 25-30 women each year. The most recent study of honour crimes, prepared by the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, shows that the victims' average age is from 17-20, and their killers are between 20-25 years of age and most commonly are victims' brothers. The study showed that most are killed by gunshots, followed by stabbing and strangulation. More than half of the victims in the study were married.

The lawnmakers were debating a request by the prosecutor general to lift the immunity of Abbadi to allow authorities to interrogate the lawmaker on charges of rape.

Abbadi rejected a call by one of his colleagues to discuss the issue in a

## 5,000 foreign workers rectify status in 1999

AMMAN (J.T.) — Since the start of 1999, 5,000 non-Jordanian workers have rectified their legal status and adjusted to the Ministry of Labour's requirements by acquiring work permits, according to Minister of Labour Mahdi Farhan.

Farhan said the total number of guest workers holding valid work permits has now reached 127,000 out of an unofficial estimate of 400,000 to 500,000 non-Jordanians employed in the country.

The Ministry of Labour is pursuing efforts to reorganise the local labour market and implement the government's declared policy regarding the number and type of jobs available to guest workers to pave the way for unemployed Jordanians to find employment, said the minister.

Earlier this month Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh

announced that illegal workers who have failed to rectify their status by the end of March will be forced to leave the country.

"We will not tolerate any disregard of the existing laws. At the same time we welcome non-Jordanian workers who abide by the law and are legally employed," said the prime minister.

The Public Security Department said last December that scores of illegal foreign workers are being deported almost daily. According to Farhan, labour ministry inspectors have intensified their inspection of various organisations and companies where guest workers are presumed to be employed to ensure that they are in compliance with the law.

According to the Labour Law, employers who fail to legalise their employees' status can be fined up to JD100 and the labourers may be deported at the employer's expense.

Unemployment in Jordan is officially estimated at 16 per cent and unofficially at 27 per cent.

The government trying

to reform the current health insurance scheme to reduce losses incurred by the government and to broaden the scheme to make it inclusive of Jordanians who are not medically insured," he told the Jordan Times.

Ajlouni pointed out that those who wish to be covered by the plan will pay a monthly premium and at the same time pay nominal fees upon receiving treatment to limit abuse of the system.

Nearly 1.6 million military personnel and their families benefit from a medical insurance scheme introduced in 1963 by the Royal Medical Services. Nearly 400,000 people are insured by private sector

secret session and insisted that the matter be discussed publicly.

"It is a fabricated case, and I am innocent," he told his Lower House colleagues yesterday ahead of the discussion. "Everybody knows who has planted this case, and I am going to unveil their identities."

Lower House deputies, who were discussing a recommendation by the Legal Committee to lift the immunity of deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi, criticised a statement by Minister of Justice Jawdat Shboul during the debate, accusing him of "influencing" deputies' positions.

The lawmakers were debating a request by the prosecutor general to lift the immunity of Abbadi to allow authorities to interrogate the lawmaker on charges of rape.

Abbadi rejected a call by one of his colleagues to discuss the issue in a

water scandal that rocked the country last summer.

Kharabsheh accused "security departments" and "political opponents" of Abbadi of "masterminding the case," and lashed out at the government for its "involvement" in the case against his colleague.

The case was nothing but "fabrication and framed accusations," the deputy said.

Shboul strongly rejected Kharabsheh's statement and insisted that legal proceedings against the deputy must be implemented.

The justice minister also denied Kharabsheh's charges that "some [security] circles" were involved in the case and described his comments as "unfounded."

His remarks drew severe criticism from deputy Sa'ed Hayel Srour who accused the minister of

"influencing" deputies against Abbadi."

Srour, a former House speaker, demanded that Shboul's statement be scrapped from the House's minutes of deliberation.

"Lifting the immunity is a matter that concerns Parliament members alone. The government has no right to interfere or to influence the deputies' opinions by such statements," Srour told Parliament.

"We hope that the government will not exceed its constitutional limits," said the lawmaker, who addressed his words to Shboul.

Kharabsheh then threatened that if Shboul's statement was not scrapped from the minutes, he would "produce documents and evidence that prove the government's involvement in the case."

Veteran Lower House Deputy Abdul Ra'ouf

Rawabdeh urged that the justice minister's words not be scrapped, but also urged Kharabsheh to apprise the Lower House of all information that would substantiate his claims.

Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi said scrapping the statement of Shboul was not acceptable, and said his colleague did not infringe on the House's internal laws.

Rawabdeh said the atmosphere under the dome was tense and proposed that the debate be postponed: a recommendation approved by the majority.

The proposed recommendation to lift the immunity stipulates that Abbadi could be tried and interrogated but gave no right to authorities to detain him.

## Parliament postpones debate on Abbadi's immunity

Abbadi alleges 'fabrication and framed accusations'

By Tareq Ayoub

AMMAN — The Lower

House of Parliament on Sunday postponed the debate to lift Parliament immunity of one of its members following a war of words between lawmakers and Cabinet ministers.

Lower House deputies, who were discussing a recommendation by the Legal Committee to lift the immunity of deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi, criticised a statement by Minister of Justice Jawdat Shboul during the debate, accusing him of "influencing" deputies' positions.

The lawmakers were debating a request by the prosecutor general to lift the immunity of Abbadi to allow authorities to interrogate the lawmaker on charges of rape.

Abbadi rejected a call by one of his colleagues to discuss the issue in a

water scandal that rocked the country last summer.

Kharabsheh accused "security departments" and "political opponents" of Abbadi of "masterminding the case," and lashed out at the government for its "involvement" in the case against his colleague.

The case was nothing but "fabrication and framed accusations," the deputy said.

Shboul strongly rejected Kharabsheh's statement and insisted that legal proceedings against the deputy must be implemented.

The justice minister also denied Kharabsheh's charges that "some [security] circles" were involved in the case and described his comments as "unfounded."

His remarks drew severe criticism from deputy Sa'ed Hayel Srour who accused the minister of

"influencing" deputies against Abbadi."

Srour, a former House speaker, demanded that Shboul's statement be scrapped from the House's minutes of deliberation.

"Lifting the immunity is a matter that concerns Parliament members alone. The government has no right to interfere or to influence the deputies' opinions by such statements," Srour told Parliament.

"We hope that the government will not exceed its constitutional limits," said the lawmaker, who addressed his words to Shboul.

Kharabsheh then threatened that if Shboul's statement was not scrapped from the minutes, he would "produce documents and evidence that prove the government's involvement in the case."

Veteran Lower House Deputy Abdul Ra'ouf

Rawabdeh urged that the justice minister's words not be scrapped, but also urged Kharabsheh to apprise the Lower House of all information that would substantiate his claims.

Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi said scrapping the statement of Shboul was not acceptable, and said his colleague did not infringe on the House's internal laws.

Rawabdeh said the atmosphere under the dome was tense and proposed that the debate be postponed: a recommendation approved by the majority.

The proposed recommendation to lift the immunity stipulates that Abbadi could be tried and interrogated but gave no right to authorities to detain him.

## Health ministry finalises health insurance scheme

By Suha Ma'ayeh

AMMAN — Health Minister Nayef Ajlouni said Sunday that the ministry has finalised a blueprint for a national health insurance scheme that would present more than one million Jordanians with the option to be covered by the plan.

The blueprint is part of efforts to reform the current health insurance scheme offered by the health ministry to nearly 1.2 million civil servants and their families and to those who are not covered by any insurance scheme and cannot afford medical treatment, Ajlouni said.

Nearly 1.6 million military personnel and their families benefit from a medical insurance scheme introduced in 1963 by the Royal Medical Services. Nearly 400,000 people are insured by private sector

firms and institutions.

The minister pointed out that medical insurance will be basic and restricted to the country's 22 state-run hospitals and nearly 1,000 out-patient health care facilities.

"Patients who wish to be included in the scheme will receive basic medical care at governmental facilities," he said. "The ministry will share the expenses of those who wish to be treated in the private sector, but will only meet the cost equivalent to that of a government institution."

For example, he said, delivery in a private hospital costs JD100, modestly, but in Al Bashir Hospital it costs JD20. The government would therefore only

compensate JD20. "Those who are not poor, as defined by the Ministry of Social Development, and who are not medically insured, will have to pay the cost of treatment," the minister said.

Ajlouni said that 55 per cent of this not poor-not insured category who seek treatment at the ministry's hospitals will pay nominal fees which covers up to 18 per cent of the actual cost of treatment.

Poor families are defined as those who either have no salary earners and are entirely dependent on modest state assistance, or who are partly dependent on state assistance.

He said that the plan

entails free coverage of an additional 200,000 citizens who cannot afford to pay, but this segment of the scheme will be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development.

Meanwhile, Ajlouni said, people who seek treatment at state-run hospitals and who can afford to pay and do not wish to be covered by the scheme will be charged the full cost of treatment.

The minister stressed that an increase in the price of medical treatment that reflects the actual cost of treatment will be announced after the government offers the health insurance scheme covering the poor.

## Environmental campaign kicks off Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — A national environmental campaign is to kick off on Thursday from the Al Hussein National Park (Wadi Qattar) led by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia.

Engineer Nabil Riyal, director of the Haya Arts Centre, made the announcement at a press conference Sunday.

Riyal said the campaign is being launched as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's recovery and safe return and is sponsored by the centre in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

He said the campaign is a translation of the King's slogan "A green Jordan by the year 2000."

Children from all governorates will be invited to take part in the campaign, whose activities will include planting of forest and fruit tree saplings.

In planting the trees, the children express their joy

over the King's return and their concern to keep the environment free of pollution and make Jordan green, according to Riyal.

He said that the concerned departments and governorates have been informed of the campaign's programme, noting that the campaign will be held in different governorates beginning on different dates, each lasting one week.

Riyal said the campaign will commence in Amman and Zarqa (Jan. 23-28), and from there will continue to Irbid and Aqaba (Jan. 30-Feb. 4), Balqa and Karak (Feb. 6-11), Mafraq and Ma'an (Feb. 13-18), Jerash and Tafileh (Feb. 20-25), and will conclude in Ajloun and Madaba (Feb. 27-March 4).

A number of organisations and ministries, including Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, and non-governmental organisations will sponsor and participate in the implementation of the campaign.

The price difference between liquefied gas for domestic purposes, specially for heating homes, has dealt the country a JD17 million loss in 1997, said a study conducted by the 38,000-member Jordan Engineers Association (JEA).

The JEA was prompted to conduct the said study by the latest gas crisis which took many Jordanians by surprise during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The use of liquefied gas instead of kerosene to heat homes is the cause for the loss, since local imports of liquefied gas increased while the country could have imported almost the same amount of kerosene at a lower cost.

Jordan imported around 56,717 tonnes of liquefied gas in 1997 at an average of \$397 per tonne, while the country can consume 61,000 tonnes of kerosene at \$172 per tonne for the same purpose," said the study which was forwarded to Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh.

The source also said that the use of gas and kerosene heaters becomes particularly dangerous when owners misuse them.

"Every year we hear about people who suffocate in their sleep because they use their heaters at night, for example," he said.

The source also said that gas heaters are dangerous.

## Preference for gas over kerosene costs Kingdom JD17 million annually

AMMAN (Petra) — The use of liquefied gas for domestic purposes, specially for heating homes, has dealt the country a JD17 million loss in 1997, said a study conducted by the 38,000-member Jordan Engineers Association (JEA).

The JEA was prompted to conduct the said study by the latest gas crisis which took many Jordanians by surprise during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The use of liquefied gas instead of kerosene to heat homes is the cause for the loss, since local imports of liquefied gas increased while the country could have imported almost the same amount of kerosene at a lower cost.

Jordan imported around 56,717 tonnes of liquefied gas in 1997 at an average of \$397 per tonne, while the country can consume 61,000 tonnes of kerosene at \$172 per tonne for the same purpose," said the study which was forwarded to Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh.

The source also said that the use of gas and kerosene heaters becomes particularly dangerous when owners misuse them.

"Every year we hear about people who suffocate in their sleep because they use their heaters at night, for example," he said.

## Royal Jordanian starts Shannon-Chicago route

## 47 Indians arrested for burning Australian missionary, sons

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Police launched a manhunt Sunday for a Hindu militant in eastern India after arresting 47 other suspects for the murder of a respected Australian missionary and his two sons.

They announced a reward of 25,000 rupees (\$625) for the arrest of Dara Singh, who allegedly led the Hindu mob that burned to death Graham Stewart Staines, 58, and his sons aged seven and 10 late Friday.

The United News of India (UNI) quoted police as saying Dara Singh was a member of the Hindu militant Bajrang Dal group which is linked to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist party.

Staines, an Australian missionary working with leprosy patients in India, and his sons Philip and Timothy, were killed when a mob set fire to the car in which they were sleeping, in the eastern state of Orissa.

A resident of India for 34 years, Staines headed the Evangelical Missionary Society in the town of Baripada, Mayurbhanj district, which is populated mainly by poor tribe members.

It was the worst anti-Christian attack in the past year in India, during which the small Christian minority has suffered more than 100 assaults at the hands of

Hindu militants.

Orissa Chief Minister J.B. Patnaik described Staines as "a symbol of Christian virtue who served people with a great missionary zeal."

"Everyone involved in this unfortunate incident will be booked," he said, and added the Australian was murdered "because he was a Christian."

Patnaik said the attackers "formed a ring around the (burning) vehicle" and did not permit Christians in the village to come to the aid of the victims.

Most attacks on Indian Christians have taken place in the Hindu nationalist-ruled western state of Gujarat. Orissa on the east coast, is governed by the Congress, the main opposition party nationally.

Sunday's police action came as Australia despatched a diplomat to Orissa to probe the brutal murders, which drew widespread condemnation in Hindu-majority India.

In Sydney, the department of foreign affairs said Australia's consul in New Delhi, David Poulter, was travelling to Orissa to gain first-hand information about the deaths and provide support for the widowed Gladys Staines and her 13-year-old daughter.

"We are stunned by this madness," church leader Father Joseph Thomas told AFP in New Delhi. "How

long can this go on?" Right-wing Hindu groups accuse Christian missionaries of trying to convert poor Hindus. Christians, who make up just 2.5 per cent of India's 975 million people, deny this.

Staines' wife said he had recently faced "stiff opposition from a section of the locals" for "conducting religious and social discourse" in his work with leprosy patients.

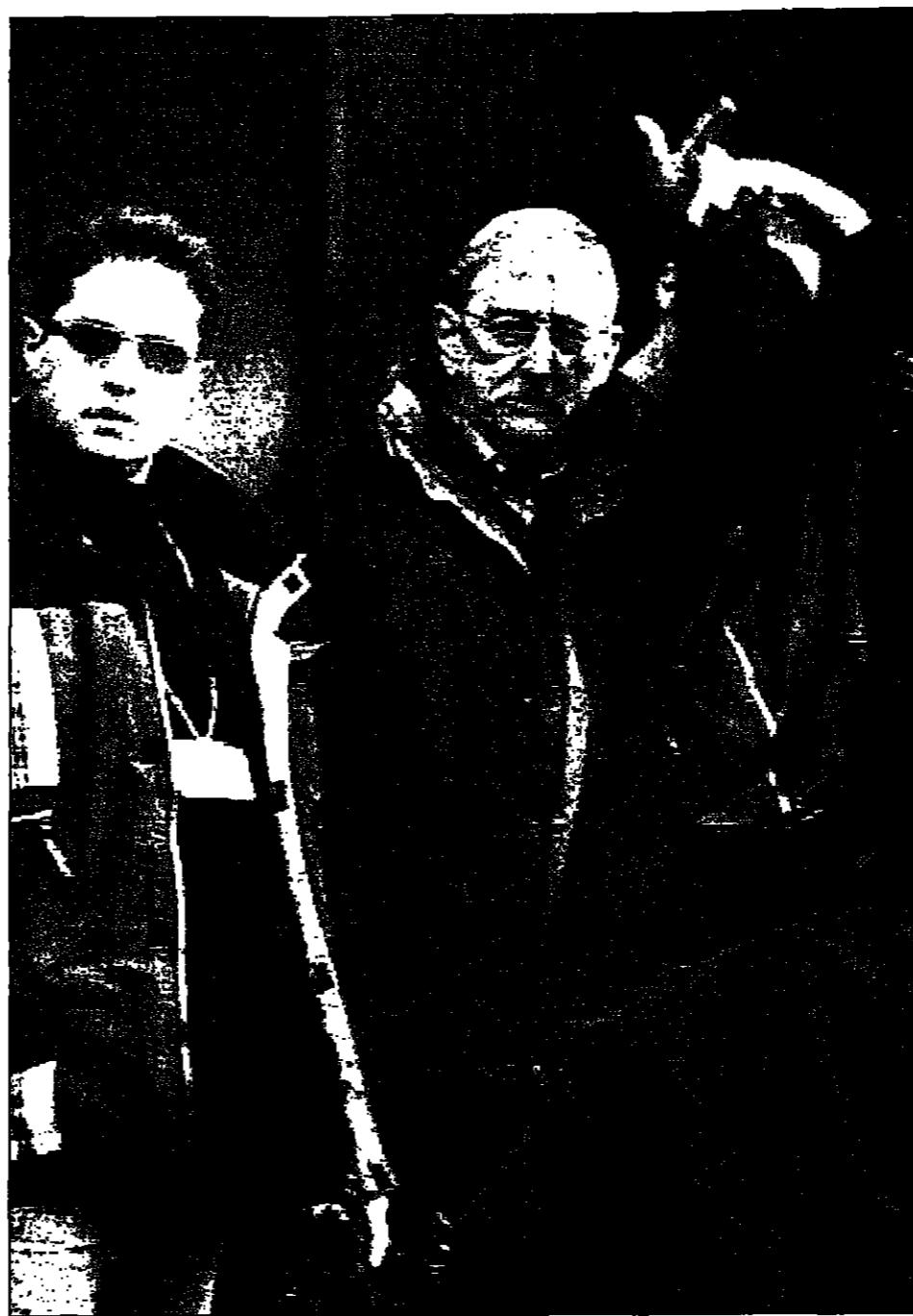
She said her family tried to get out of the blazing car but was pushed back inside by the mob.

Prime Minister Vajpayee, considered the most secular of Hindu politicians, called the attack a "ghastly act" of "anti-social elements."

Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani, a nationalist hawk, called the killings "shocking and gruesome," and urged the local government to "take stern action" against the killers.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist demanded an immediate ban on Hindu militant groups, and said the killings were the result "of the hate campaign against the Christian community" over the past year.

Christian groups have claimed a sharp rise in violence against their community since the Hindu nationalist came to office in New Delhi at the head of a multi-party coalition in March last year.



William Walker (right), head of the international ceasefire verification mission in Kosovo, waves to journalists in front of the OSCE headquarters in Pristina before departing to Vienna to meet there with OSCE leaders. Walker's expulsion from Yugoslavia was frozen three days ago by Serbian authorities after OSCE Chairman Knut Vollebaek had talks with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade (AFP photo)

## OSCE's Walker fears increasing Kosovo violence

PRISTINA, Serbia (R) — Kosovo seems primed for more violence despite a release of Serb hostages and ethnic Albanian prisoners, the U.S. chief of international monitors said Sunday.

Asked by Reuters if the release of detainees by both sides Saturday was a sign the Serbian province had turned a corner in the search for peace, William Walker, chief of mission for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said: "I wish it were, (but) I don't think so. It's not only a concern, it's a fear that we'll probably have more of this (violence, political kidnapping). I hope I'm wrong."

Walker, an American, said a resumption of tit-for-tat kidnappings and attacks by Serbs and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo was a big concern of his.

"It raises the level of anger and outrage of whichever community is affected. Each instance of that you have, the threat is the other side is going to do one bigger, even more spectacular, and it becomes a spiral," the OSCE ambassador said.

The OSCE mission chief, who directs the actions of more than 900 international peace "verifiers" across

"I hope both sides understand the message from the international community that this is beyond the pale, that this is not something civilised people do."

Walker left Kosovo's capital, Pristina, Sunday for OSCE's Vienna headquarters to report on a tumultuous 10 days in Kosovo that saw him black-listed by Belgrade and then granted a reprieve even as NATO warned Belgrade of possible air strikes.

The latest round of disturbances in this southern Serb province began on Jan. 15th when the bodies of 45 ethnic Albanians, in civilian clothes, were discovered in the village of Racak after government forces swept the area.

Walker described the scene as a "massacre" and blamed the government side.

Belgrade angrily disputed his statement, saying they had been killed in a firefight between government troops and separatist rebels and the bodies then arranged to suggest a massacre.

Ninety per cent of Kosovo's roughly two million people are ethnic Albanians. Most want independence from Yugoslavia.

## U.S., North Korea resume talks over suspected nuclear site

GENEVA (AFP) — U.S. and North Korean negotiators were meeting for a second day here Sunday over Washington's demand to inspect an underground site it suspects is being used to revive Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme in violation of a 1994 agreement.

But there was little sign of progress.

Before going into the U.S. mission here Sunday, a senior North Korean official said big differences remained.

The two sides met last weekend and talked again for five hours at the North Korean mission here Saturday.

The talks come amid mounting tension on the divided Korean peninsula over the Communist North's nuclear and missile capabilities.

In Pyongyang, the North has stepped up its war of words against the United States, South Korea and Japan, warning any future conflict in the region would

involve nuclear arms.

The talks are aimed at saving a 1994 accord under which North Korea agreed to freeze its nuclear programme in return for aid and the easing of Korean-war era sanctions.

But the alert was raised in August when a U.S. spy satellite spotted activity at an underground site at Kumchangri, northeast of the capital Pyongyang.

The site is close to North Korea's mothballed nuclear reactors and U.S. officials fear it could be used to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang says the site is for undisclosed civilian purposes and has demanded Washington pay \$300 million to take a look.

North Korea, which has suffered years of famine and a shrinking economy and needs foreign aid to feed its people, routinely uses the threat of its nuclear and missile capabilities to try to extract aid from the United States and its

allies.

Under the 1994 accord, a U.S.-led consortium agreed to replace North Korea's graphite nuclear reactors — which produce weapons-grade plutonium — with two safer light-water models and supply fuel oil.

But the U.S. Congress has threatened to block further funding for the deal unless Pyongyang can show it is keeping its side of the bargain.

The Korean war ended in an armistice in 1953 without a permanent peace treaty ever being signed, leaving the North and South technically still at war.

The United States, the South's wartime ally, has 37,000 troops stationed in South Korea and collapse of the 1994 agreement would leave Washington and its regional allies with tough choices about how to deal with the heavily-armed North.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yeltsin likely to remain in hospital for another week

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin will remain in the hospital for at least another week while he undergoes treatment for a stomach ulcer, a news agency reported Sunday. "Doctors appraise Boris Yeltsin's health as satisfactory," presidential spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin told the ITAR-TASS news agency. "Planned therapy in progress. The president's blood pressure and temperature are in the norm." Yeltsin was admitted to the Central Clinical Hospital with a bleeding stomach ulcer on Jan. 17. His doctor, Sergei Mironov, said at the time he expected treatment of the ulcer to last for two or three weeks. It was the fifth time that the 67-year-old president has been hospitalised since his relection in 1996. Doctors decided last week that Yeltsin would not require surgery and said the medicinal treatment of his ulcer appeared to be working. The president will remain in the hospital for at least another week, ITAR-TASS said, citing unidentified sources in the Kremlin. According to Yakushkin, Yeltsin was likely to have several meetings with officials in his hospital room and speak to others by telephone. It was also possible Yeltsin could meet in the hospital with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who arrives on a three-day visit Monday, but it was more likely that he would speak to her by telephone, ITAR-TASS said. Yakushkin said Saturday that Yeltsin had begun going over a draft of his state-of-the-union speech, and he expected the president to deliver it to parliament either in late February or early March.

### Leftists, German police clash near far-right rally

MULDA, Germany (R) — Left-wing demonstrators trying to disrupt a rally by Germany's far-right NPD party clashed with police in the eastern town of Mulda Saturday evening, police said. At least one demonstrator was injured in the scuffles in Mulda, a small town of 1,400 south of Dresden. At least one car was damaged by hurled rocks and three people were detained. About 600 protesters had gathered outside a village concert hall where about 200 members of the far-right National Democratic Party was holding a party congress. There were several hundred police in the village to prevent the left-wing demonstrators clashing with members of the NPD, a party which security officials say numbers convicted neo-Nazis and skinhead thugs in its ranks. Thursday, unknown assailants had set fire to the hall, causing extensive damage. Separately, the magazine Focus said Germany's anti-extremism watchdog, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, had caught a 17-year-old who was feeding outlawed Nazi propaganda into the Internet. The youth had set up a homepage called "Der arische Ansturm" (The Aryan Onslaught) that was filled with racist propaganda as well as instructions on how to make a bomb. The magazine said police had found considerable amounts of explosives in his apartment.

### French army officers rescued from South Pole after feat

PARIS (AFP) — Five French army officers who skied their way to the South Pole were rescued overnight after being stranded there since their arrival Jan. 9 due to bad weather. A plane flew in to recover the group and take them to Patriot Hills, a base used for Antarctic expeditions. From there, they will take another flight to Punta Arenas, Chile, at the beginning of the week, before flying home to France. The five men, part of an elite mountain unit in the French army, camped out at the South Pole in two tents while waiting for weather conditions to improve so the rescue plane could land. They set off for their 1,350-kilometre journey across the Antarctic ice cap on Nov. 21 from Gould Bay, near Berkner Island and covered some 30 kilometres per day. With each man towing a 130-kilogramme sledge, they skied for nearly nine hours daily in temperatures of between minus 15 and minus 25 degrees Celsius. Four of them undertook a similar expedition to the North Pole in 1996 and three of them climbed Mount Everest in 1997. The aim of the South Pole trip was to increase the personal experience of the group and test new equipment, including army underwear and rations, according to the army information service.

### Dissident joins China relay hunger strike group

HONG KONG (R) — Prominent dissident Ren Wanding Sunday began a 24-hour hunger strike in Beijing in a relay-style action launched by Chinese dissidents to protest against the jailing of pro-democracy activists, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said. Other members of the banned opposition China Democratic Party will strike at the same time, the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said. The 24-hour strike continues the action started a month ago which was launched to protest against the arrests of members of the China Democratic Party last December. Dissident Xiu Wenli was sentenced to 13 years in prison and Wang Youcui to 11 years for trying to set up the opposition group to the ruling Communist Party. Qin Yongmin was jailed for 12 years. The centre said that Xu's family had received a first letter from him and would try and see him for the first time since his arrest Monday.

### N. Korean soldiers kill two Chinese residents

SEOUL (R) — Two North Korean border guards shot and killed two Chinese civilians earlier this month after the soldiers crossed into China to steal goods, domestic media reported. The North Koreans had sneaked into the town across the Yalu River in mid-January, the Yonhap news agency said, quoting unidentified diplomatic sources. A group of civilians gave chase to the guards, who then opened fire, killing the two people. Yonhap said on the Internet. The report did not give the Chinese name for the town but it was believed to be near Dandong city in the northeastern province of Liaoning. Officials at South Korea's spy agency were not available for comment, and the Yonhap report gave no further details. National Intelligence Service officials said North Korean soldiers routinely cross into China in search of food and valuables. North Korea, which shares a long border with northeastern China, has suffered three years of famine which has caused many deaths and driven its population to desperate measures.

## Megret claims leadership of French far-right

MARIGNANE, France (R) — Bruno Megret, the leader of a rebel faction of France's National Front, claimed victory Sunday in his battle to seize control of the far-right movement from its founder Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Megret, 49, who was the sole candidate to stand for president at a special party congress organised by his breakaway faction, won 86 per cent of the vote.

The approximately 2,500 delegates attending the two-day meeting in the southern town of Marignane, a Front stronghold, later named Le Pen as the party's "honorary president."

Le Pen, who is 21 years Megret's senior, boycotted the congress, dismissing it as an illegal gathering of putschists and slamming the diminutive Megret as "a psychopath" who said fancies himself as a Napoleon.

That leaves France with two rival National Fronts, each determined to put up a slate of candidates in European parliamentary elections on June 13.

Megret backers said they would call their party the National Front-National Movement to differentiate it from Le Pen's.

Among the party's new leaders was Le Pen's daughter Marie-Caroline Le Pen, who has publicly split with her father.

Mouths of court battles are now likely to ensue as the rival factions fight over the right to the party's name, insignia, state campaign subsidies and sizeable headquarters building.

But the battle will above all focus on voters and the balance of forces in the French political landscape.

The mainstream right, in the minority in parliament, sees the split as a chance to win back disillusioned voters.

But recent polls show the extreme right as a whole holding on to most of its supporters despite the split, with a strong majority of front voters siding with Le Pen over Megret.

Megret publicly challenged the move and his backers gathered the signatures of enough of the party's 40,000 dues-paying members to demand an extraordinary party congress.

Le Pen, who ultimately won the right to run in the June poll through a carefully timed appeal, retaliated by expelling Megret and his allies before they could present their petitions.

But it currently has no seats in parliament and controls only a handful of town halls.

## Chinese authorities detain dissident, journalist

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese authorities have detained a dissident and a journalist in the Hunan province capital of Changsha, a rights group said Sunday.

Dissident Liu Xianbin and reporter Yuan Yajuan were taken from a guesthouse early Saturday, the New York-based Human Rights in China said in a statement received here.

Police told other members of their party who sought the release of the pair that they had no identity cards, it added.

Liu, who is from Sichuan, has been arrested at least three times in recent weeks because of his activities with the fledgling opposition China Democracy Party (CDP), the statement said. He served two-and-a-half years in jail after the 1989 Tiananmen

express their discontent," said the open letter, released by the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

The activists said a rising tide of anger over increasing official corruption, heavy taxes in rural areas and unemployment would erupt if action was not taken soon.

One person died after 5,000 villagers clashed with police and army officers in a demonstration 50 kilometres west of the Hunan province capital on Jan. 8.

"The government should carry out political reforms to ease increasingly intense social conflict," said a letter signed by 89 CDP members.

We urge the central government not to suppress dissident and protesting workers, to immediately carry out political reform and to give the people a channel to



United Democratic Movement (UDM) supporters take cover as shots are fired at them in the Magoda township outside Richmond. African National Congress (ANC) supporters stormed the UDM section of Richmond after eleven ANC supporters were killed overnight in an alleged revenge attack for the assassination of UDM General Secretary Sifiso Nkabinde Saturday (AFP photo)

## Candidacy rows rock Nigerian parties amid presidential race

LAGOS (AFP) — Splits have appeared in Nigeria's second largest party, while conservatives in the north have threatened a disruptive entry into the country's presidential race, just over a month before elections.

The centre-right All Peoples Party (APP), which came second in state elections held earlier this month, is split over plans for an electoral pact the presidential elections slated for Feb. 27, a top party official admitted Sunday.

The leaders of the APP agreed earlier this month to team up for the presidential elections, presenting a joint candidate with the regionalist Alliance for Democracy (AD).

But last week the AD made clear that, though smaller than the centre-right party, it expected to be allowed to produce the alliance's candidate for president.

And Friday, five leading members of the APP, all hopefuls for the APP ticket to lead Africa's most populous country, issued a state-

ment insisting that the alliance's candidate must come from the APP.

"The APP is now saying that as a senior partner in the alliance, there is no way the APP as a party can accept that the AD should produce the presidential candidate," said newspaper publisher Emmanuel Iwanyanwu, a spokesman for the five.

"The APP will definitely not accept that," he added.

The problem for other leaders in the APP is that to secure the support of the Yoruba-based AD, which most analysts believe would be vital for the APP to stand a chance of winning in the elections, defeating the dominant centre-left Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), they must agree to an AD candidate.

"Some of our presidential aspirants do not agree with what we are doing," a top APP official admitted Sunday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Nigeria's conservative northern elite has dominated the country since independence in 1960 and in

1993, the election of a southern tycoon and politician, Moshood Abiola, was overturned by the northern-dominated military, enflaming passions in his native southwest.

Since then, a consensus has grown that the three registered parties must accept demands that the south produce the next president.

Joseph Wayas, a leading member of the forum who opposed the northern body's decision, warned Sunday that it risked plunging Nigeria into "crisis" by infuriating the already tense south.

"We should equally not forget what brought us to this stage of political crisis," he said, referring to the annulment of the 1993 elections. "We should not forget that we may precipitate another crisis, similar to the June 12 (1993) crisis," he said.

The group said the debate among southern politicians about who should stand for the presidency "is already developing into a crisis situation."

To resolve this, it said it would back the northern candidate.

Nigeria's conservative northern elite has dominated the country since independence in 1960 and in

## Gunmen kill eleven in South African township

RICHMOND, South Africa (AFP) — Gunmen killed 11 members of the same family in KwaZulu-Natal at the weekend, police said Sunday, sparking fears of wanton bloodshed in the run-up to South Africa's general election.

When confronted he pointed his firearm at one of the security personnel. The security force members fired shots... killing the suspect," Naidoo said.

It was not immediately clear if he was connected with the attack.

An AFP correspondent reported that police came under fire when they broke up clashes between ANC and UDM supporters on a road dividing the rival townships of Ndaleni and Nkabinde's stronghold of Mogoda early Sunday.

No casualties were reported. Bloody feuding between UDM and ANC factions resulted in more than 100 killings in terror attacks in the Richmond townships last year, leading to fears of massive destabilisation in the tin-

derbox province during the campaign for the elections, due mid-year.

ANC provincial leader Bheki Cele said survivors had told him the gunmen had shouted "you killed our leader and brother" before they opened fire — an apparent reference to Nkabinde's assassination.

Cele said the ANC was angered by the police response to Saturday's massacre, saying police were called just after the shootings, but arrived two hours later.

"It is of no use to tell the people to remain calm when they know that police will not do anything to protect them from another attack," he said.

Nkabinde, the local leader of the UDM and its national general secretary, was gunned down on Saturday morning.

The region's most feared politician, Nkabinde, was acquitted last year of 16 charges of murder — for lack of evidence — though ANC leaders considered him a warlord and behind much of the violence in the province.

where politically motivated killings are rife.

His organisational skills and intimidatory tactics were credited with giving the fledgling UDM a foothold in KwaZulu-Natal, previously the scene of a bloodbath low-level civil war between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Nationally, a recent opinion poll gave the UDM only three per cent of voters' support, trailing behind four other parties.

Richmond Mayor Andrew Ragavalo said Sunday the small town was in shock at the killings. "We did expect some retaliation after Nkabinde's killing but not as bad as what we have seen here," said Ragavalo during a visit to the Ndabazulu homestead.

"The community is devastated. We have had peace for five months and suddenly this killing. We hope this doesn't lead to another spiral of violence," he told the South African Press Association.

## Myanmar arrests dissidents, opposition activists

YANGON (R) — Myanmar has arrested members of the main opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) and an exiled anti-government group for allegedly inciting student riots in November and December 1998, the official Myanma News Agency (MNA) reported Sunday.

The agency did not say how many people had been arrested, but it published photographs of 11 persons said to be held by the country's military rulers.

During November and December of last year some students at medical colleges in Yangon were reported to

have staged anti-government protests, although the protests did not spread and were contained by the authorities.

The NLD, led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, has long been an logger-heads with the ruling State Peace and Development Council over demands for democratic reform and human rights.

The agency said an organiser of the PDF, Khin Soe, was detained while carrying pamphlets on Dec. 22. It identified the exiled group as the People's

### Program Administrator / Grants Manager Position

A US consulting firm in Amman, Jordan is seeking a Program Administrator / Grants Manager to begin as soon as possible for an assignment of approximately two years and 9 months. The successful candidate will possess a wide range of skills and experience including, but not limited to the following :

- Soliciting, competing, awarding, disbursing, administering, and monitoring of grants totaling more than \$5 million to at least seven beneficiaries.
- High degree of computer skills, including network systems administration, computerized monitoring and evaluation systems, and database development and maintenance.
- Professional and personal support to eight long-term expatriate employees and nearly 500 person months of short-term consultants.
- Compliance with US and Jordanian laws and USAID regulations and policies governing contracting, procurement, and grants.
- Financial oversight of project and grantee finances.
- Oversight of project procurement and inventory management for the project and for grantees.
- Monitoring and management of local subcontract(s); and
- Financial and technical reporting on quarterly and annual basis.

**Candidates must possess the following qualifications:**

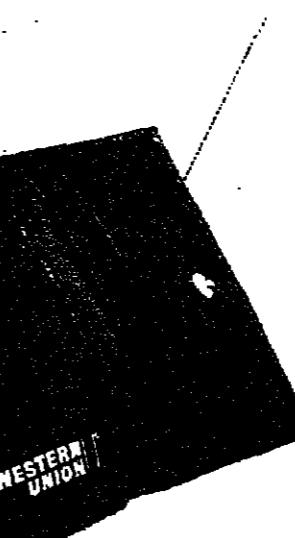
- At least ten years of work experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities listed, including eight year's experience managing international development projects with both for-profit contractors and grantees.
- Solid understanding of computers and local area networks, including experience in network systems administration, computerized monitoring and evaluation systems, database development and maintenance, and experience with Microsoft Project, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel and Corel Quattro Pro;
- Prior extensive experience with USAID rules and regulations concerning management of projects and procurement;
- At least a BA or equivalent in business administration, economics, or a related field; and
- Strong written and oral communication skills in English.

Please send CV and cover letter by fax to 560-3599 attn : Program Administrator / Grants Manager position.

Dead line for receipt of applications Thursday, February 4th, 1999

# Exchange money in minutes!

**FREE!**  
Get this elegant wallet  
with every transaction.



Offer valid when you send  
money and until stocks last

• Fast • Reliable • Secure

Cairo Amman Bank,  
Wadi Saqr Street,  
PO Box 950661,  
Amman 11195, Jordan.  
Tel: (06) 465 3082

**WESTERN UNION MONEY TRANSFER**

The fastest way to send money worldwide.



## Tell el-'Umayri excavations, surveys anchor the Madaba Plains Project — part III

*(Note: This is the last of three articles on the excavations at Tell el-'Umayri and associated surveys and smaller excavations within the context of the Madaba Plains Project. Today's article looks at the Classical period and later sites, and the results of regional surveys and excavations; the second article concentrated on the important Iron Age towns at the site, while the first article focused on the earliest Bronze Age towns.)*

THE SITE of Tell el-'Umayri actually comprises three different tells, located within about 250 metres of one another. The main excavated site is the western tell, the largest of the three (some seven hectares) and the one closest to the ancient local water source. It is located immediately west of the airport highway, eleven kilometres south of the Seventh Circle in Amman. It is slightly higher than the other two tells, its summit being some 60 metres above the wadi bed, and 900 metres above sea level.

Across the highway from the main tell is a smaller site known as el-'Umayri East, with trees and wall lines clearly visible on it as one drives by it on the airport highway. This is the site of the Classical period settlement, with Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine remains, but it has never been excavated. A survey in 1994 identified 43 different ancient features on 'Umayri East, including 11 cisterns, 22 caves, ten quarries, mosaic floor remains, a Byzantine cross carved on a stone, and coins dating from the Umayyad and Ottoman periods. A 94-metre-long north-south wall and a 62-metre-long east-west wall on the hill seem to be recent constructions.

The third tell is 'Umayri North, located east of the highway, north of the main site, is the latest of the three in terms of settlement, having been used primarily in the Islamic period, according to pottery and coin evidence collected from the surface. It has never been excavated.

### Regional Survey

The hinterland survey of an area of five kilometres radius around Tell el-'Umayri identified 133 new sites, indicating the archaeological wealth of this area that is now being heavily and rapidly built up. Among the ancient sites were roads, houses, towns and villages, wine presses, cisterns, caves, lime kilns, watchtowers and forts — spanning the entire known history of humankind, from the Stone Age to the Islamic era. The survey was directed by Dr. Sten LaBianca of Andrews University, assisted initially by the late Robert G. Boling, and subsequently by Randall W. Younker and Gary L. Christopher. The hinterland surveying sought to undertake a controlled comparison of food system cycles in the 'Umayri region with those already documented around Hisban, LaBianca said in a recent interview. "This was a new type of survey using random sampling methods, along with traditional approaches. Special attention was focused on evidence of change over time in food production practices and related settlement patterns," he explained.

The survey consisted of several teams, including an environmental survey team; a random survey team; a site survey team; a seasonal site sur-

vey team; a tomb survey team; an ethnarchaeology team; and a water resources survey team, which were not all fielded during the same season.

The picture that emerges from the survey evidence is of a region of numerous farming estates that concentrated on growing grains and fruits (particularly grapes for wine production). Among the ancient farming technologies that have been documented are dams and embankments along the bottoms of wadis in order to minimise erosion and maximise the retention of groundwater for dryland cultivation — a practice that contemporary farmers are starting to employ again. Among the significant results of the regional survey, according to LaBianca, was that "pottery from the Roman and Byzantine periods, and to a lesser extent from the Iron Age II, was found on the surface of the ground throughout the entire project area, even in fields and hillsides."

This reflects the findings of other surveys in adjacent areas that show these to have been the ancient periods of most intensive human activity. The survey identified four general categories of buildings that were found throughout the survey area during the periods of heaviest human use: agricultural field shelters or 'towers', small farmsteads, larger agricultural complexes or 'estates' (such as Rujm Salim, described below), and forts (such as ed-Dreijat).

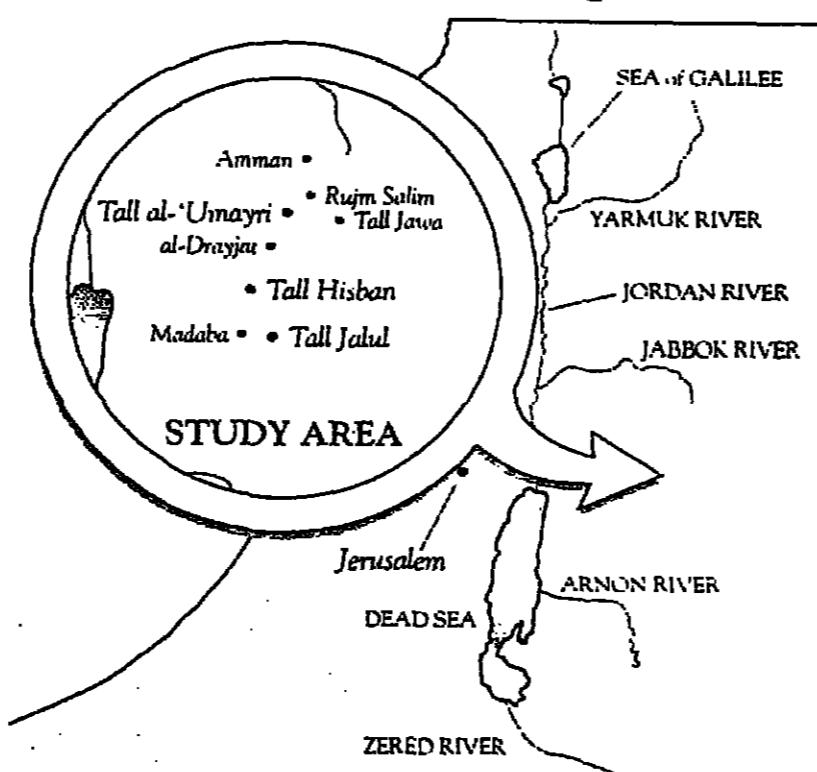
The common agricultural field shelters or 'towers' are 3-5-metre-square or rectangular solitary facilities located well away from the main farmsteads, and always associated with agricultural terraces and/or field walls. They probably provided temporary shelter for farmers or workers during critical seasons, when the crops had to be carefully watched or protected.

The larger field 'towers' (3x3 to 6x7 metres) were usually associated with facilities for cultivating, storing, preparing or processing foodstuffs, including wine presses, millstones, field walls, and caves. They usually were located on spurs of hills overlooking good agricultural fields and vineyards, and probably were used primarily as watchtowers and farmsteads.

Such a facility is perhaps described in the biblical passage of Isaiah 5:1-7: "My beloved had a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. As he dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines, he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it..." Most of these agricultural facilities described in the Isaiah passage were found throughout the survey area, including stone piles from field clearing, wine presses, enclosure walls, and towers, said Dr. Larry Herr of Canadian University College.

### Ed-Dreijat Excavation

One of the outlying sites that the MPP team excavated was a hilltop settlement called Ed-Dreijat, located nearly two kilometres to the southwest of 'Umayri itself. Its hilltop location with fine views in all directions suggested that it was an Iron Age military fortress or tower; the excavations confirmed its early life as a fort in the Iron II period, but also revealed a more complex history spanning several periods. Excavations revealed that the main rectangular

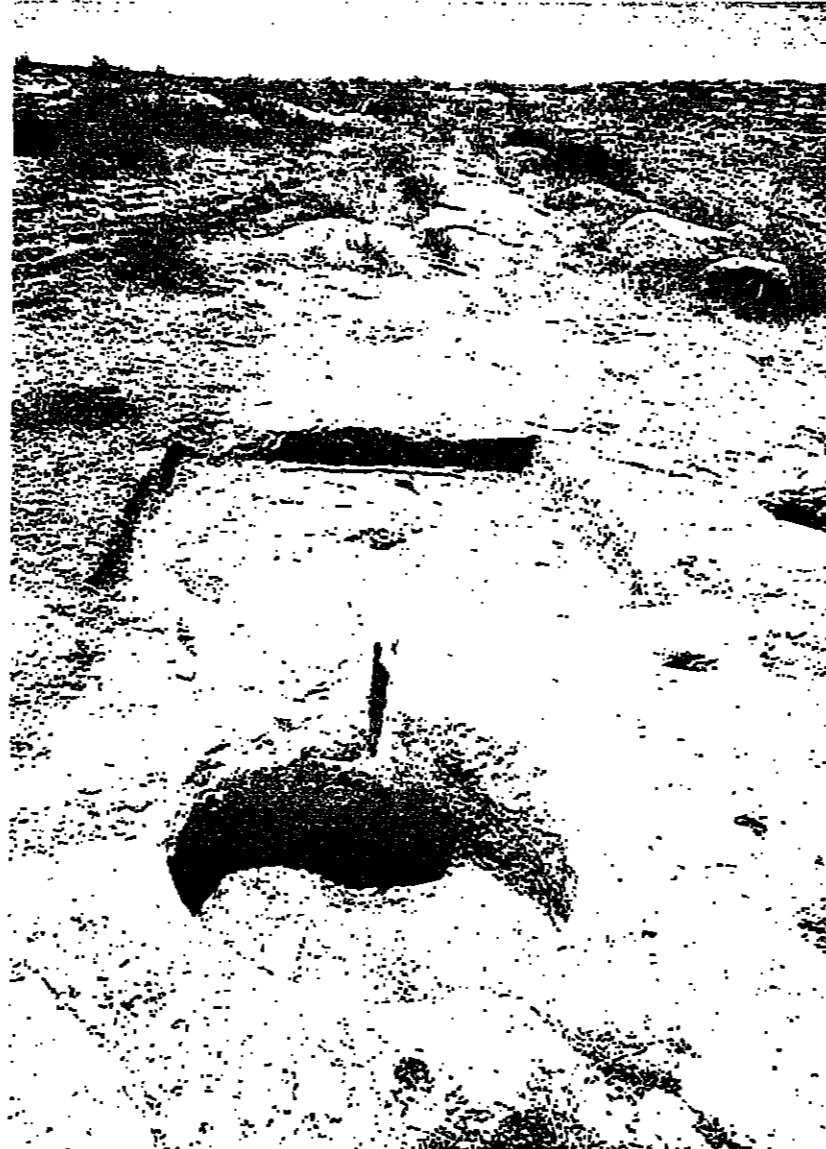


Map of the study area

lar structure had walls measuring some 2.5-metres thick, built of massive chert boulders measuring over two meters long in some cases. The oldest use was during the Iron II period, when it seems to have protected the surrounding farming region. The site was cleared to bedrock and rebuilt in the Late Persian/Hellenistic era as a complex that included

domestic quarters and agricultural processing facilities. Some of the architectural changes included new basements carved into the bedrock, and caves tunneled beneath the fortress for storage of water and food.

The structure was again remodelled during its use in the Late Hellenistic and Roman periods, and pot-shards from the Byzantine period may



An Iron Age/Persian era winepress from one of the many sites in the survey area (photo by Rami G. Khouri)

reflect the site's use for agricultural purposes. Light pottery remains suggest perhaps only seasonal use in the Ayyubid-Mamluke era, according to Dr. Randall Younker of Andrews University, who directed these excavations.

### Rujm Salim

Another of the sites discovered during the regional survey and subsequently excavated was a large farmstead or estate called Rujm Salim, over two kilometres north-east of Tell el-'Umayri. It comprised a tower-like central building nearly nine metres square and made of megalithic stones, along with terraces, enclosure walls, cisterns, wine presses, caves, 'out' buildings near the main structure, 'roads' among the agricultural fields, and other structures. An ancient proper road passes nearby.

This facility seems to have been built around the 6th-5th century BC, when it probably served as some sort of managerial complex to oversee the vineyards and wine production in the region. Another similar site was excavated some two kilometres south of Tell el-'Umayri. Among the objects found at Rujm Salim that indicated that it and other similar sites were more than just large farmsteads were many fragments of jewellery and figurines, a scaraboid seal, and two stamp seals. One of the interesting finds from Rujm Salim was a deliberately defaced bronze coin from the 3rd century BC, during the structure's second period of use in the Hellenistic era. Rujm Miriam is a fourth survey site that was excavated to reveal a food production and processing facility overlooking the upper reaches of the Wadi Bunayat. This farmstead comprised a central house surrounded by a courtyard, walls, and terraces. It was built, used and abandoned during the Hellenistic period (332-63 BC), and may have served primarily as a collection point for agricultural produce.

### Work on tombs

The regional survey identified numerous tomb remains in the vicinity of Tell el-'Umayri, with 42 survey sites showing the remains of cemeteries or isolated burials. Of these, 30 sites had Roman-Byzantine remains. Several cemeteries or individual tombs have been excavated or cleared, revealing well preserved burials from the Early Bronze Age IV period (c. 2300-2000 BC), including shaft tombs and cistern-shaped installations.

The excavations of one cemetery two kilometres from the tell showed that the people were buried with funerary objects such as four-spouted lamps, jugs, bronze daggers, and spindle whorls — perhaps standard requirements for a safe journey through the next life in the late 3rd millennium BC. Cistern-like structures adjacent to the shaft tombs had EBIV and Middle Bronze II A materials. Project members have hypothesised that a settlement was located nearby, or — because the cisterns were located amidst the tombs — that the cemetery itself was a seasonal campsite and settlement for pastoralists who returned here regularly to bury their dead. The survey of the 'cemetery' area, measuring 500 x 400 metres, revealed twice as many cistern-shaped features as tombs, suggesting that it would be inaccurate to



By Rami G. Khouri

designate this primarily as a cemetery, according to Douglas R. Clark of Walla Walla College, and an MPP co-director.

These are among the richest funerary remains from this period excavated anywhere in the southern Levant, according to Gary Christopher and Boguslav Dubrowski, who have made a separate analysis of the tomb remains.

Along with the dolmen that was excavated on the south slope of the tell, the project also identified on the south-eastern slope a hewn cave or tomb with a stepped entrance, dating from the Middle Bronze II C period (1650-1550 BC). This tomb would have been used by the people who first built the massive fortifications at the hilltop town. It housed 15 articulated skeletons, including one placed in a niche and four children. Typical funerary objects were platters, carinated bowls, jugs, juglets, and lamps.

The environmental survey focused on documenting the land use strategies of Roman and Byzantine era inhabitants of Wadi Bishara, about two kilometres west of the tell. Among the features studied were earth embankments set perpendicular to the wadi bottom, terraces that rose from the wadi, and diversion dams and embankments on smaller tributaries — some of which were being revived by farmers today. "When this ancient system was at its peak," LaBianca said, "the wadi and the surrounding slopes could have produced ten times as much vegetables and fruits as are being grown today."

The ethnoarchaeological survey studies contemporary human lifestyles and beliefs in order to illuminate the past. It has sought to document the reasons why households and villages made the decision to become sedentary or nomadic.

Interviews with three groups of local residents (Ajarmeh natives, Christians who came here a century ago, and recently arrived Palestinians) have identified some of the reasons for this changing lifestyle. These include shifting from tent homes in summer to warmer caves or houses in winter; simultaneously cultivating crops and herding animals on tribal lands separately dedicated for each purpose; the existence of a range of families, within a tribe, on the continuum from sedentary to fully nomadic; and, flexible tribal norms that allow members to be included or excluded, as circumstances demand.

The work at Tell el-'Umayri and associated sites in the Madaba Plains Project (MPP) is continuing, with excavations taking place every other summer. The MPP is sponsored by Andrews University (Michigan, USA), in consortium with Canadian University College, LaSierra University, and Walla Walla College. The Tell el-'Umayri Project is directed by Larry G. Herr, Douglas R. Clark, and Warren C. Trenchard, with LaSierra University President and former MPP director Lawrence Geraty acting as senior consultant.

## Iraq boosting southern defences, governor says

(Continued from page 1)

On Saturday, the official INA news agency in Baghdad reported that Iraq had officially protested to the U.N. Security Council regarding the no-fly zones, which are enforced over northern and southern Iraq by British and U.S. warplanes.

Allied aircraft were responsible for a total of 9,428 aggressive air violations between August 1998 and the end of 1998, including 1,286 in northern Iraq," Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Saffah said in a letter to the Security Council, the agency reported.

The British and U.S. overflights constitute "unjustified violations of Iraqi sovereignty," Saffah said.

The no-fly zones, imposed after the 1991 Gulf war to protect Iraq's Kurdish and Shiite Muslim populations, extend north of the 36th Parallel and up the 33rd Parallel in the south, reaching the outskirts of Baghdad.

Baghdad has never recognised the zones, which do not have the backing of a specific U.N. resolution, and has pledged to defy them.

On Saturday, the Pentagon reported that U.S. forces that day attacked an Iraqi missile site.

Residents in Basra said sirens regularly go off in the city to warn citizens that planes are over the no-fly zone.

There seemed to be little movement of military hardware on one of the two main highways to the south on Sunday. The previous day,

## INVESTMENT COMPANY

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES BASED

Head - Information Services Department

Our client is an investment company based in the United Arab Emirates. Its principal activities are those of investment and merchant banking.

In order to meet the long-term and short-term strategies of the Information Services Department, our client now seeks to appoint an enthusiastic and dedicated individual to head their Information Services Department.

### The Position

The successful candidate's main responsibility will be to formulate and execute the long-term and short-term strategies for the Information Services Department. Other duties and responsibilities will include:

- Liaising with other Heads of Departments for the development of systems and procedures relating to the front office, back office, accounting and MIS.
- Planning and developing policies and procedures for carrying out computer operations.
- Implementing and providing end-user support, application developments, computer operations, LAN, security administration and maintaining the Data Base Systems.
- Contingency planning and disaster recovery procedures.
- Consulting with external software/hardware vendors to solve problems impeding computer operations and evaluating new IT developments to determine their usefulness and compatibility with the Company's existing software/hardware.
- Evaluating current and future business requirements in order to assess the adequacy of existing resources and future requirements.
- Training and developing UAE Nationals in Information Services.
- Acting as Secretary and Co-ordinator for the Company's Information Systems Steering Group.

### Qualifications

The ideal candidate for this position should be aged between 30 - 40 years and have a minimum of 3 to 5 years experience working in a similar environment for a Financial Institution. The candidate should hold a Computer Science Degree from a reputable University and have a thorough knowledge of Oracle applications. Excellent communication, interpersonal and team building skills are considered to be essential qualities.

Qualified Candidates should forward their Curriculum Vitae together with a recent photograph and expected remuneration package before the 8 February 1999 to Ernst & Young Executive Recruitment Division, P.O. Box 136, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Fax No. + 971 2 722968. Please quote reference number #214. Only those candidates which are short-listed will be contacted.

ERNST & YOUNG

JORDAN TIMES FAX #  
5696183



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### The stock exchange is still suffering from shortage of liquidity despite improvement of indicators

\*\* DESPITE SOME improvement in the indicators of the stock market, known as the Amman Financial Market (AFM), the bourse still suffers from low liquidity, the AFM's deputy director-general said in a working paper he presented to a conference held recently at the Yarmouk University in Irbid. He pointed out that the turnover ratio have declined to around 10 per cent after peaking at 86.2 per cent in 1992 and standing at about 50 per cent in 1989, noting that the depth of the market and its liquidity are considered among the important factors that influence decisions for investment in the market.

Jail Tareef, the senior AFM official, wrote that the supply of shares, especially the "free float" shares has an important effect on the market development through providing more depth and liquidity in the market and enabling it to carry out the role of attracting foreign investments which flow mostly to countries outside this region. "Despite the existence of Arab financial markets having a market value of around JD150 billion, these markets were not able to attract adequate foreign investments," he said.

Tareef added that within this framework, it is imperative to expand the sale of shares owned by the government to increase the supply of shares, especially the free float shares. Moreover, he said, it is imperative to expedite the privatisation programmes and to remove the restrictions and barriers or ceilings facing investment.

In his working paper, the deputy director general said the AFM has

depended on shares as a main trading tool since it was established whereas stocks received less attention whether in terms of trading volume or their interest to investors. However, Tareef indicated that since the new companies law was issued in 1997, the stock market witnessed encouraging results as the volume of government bonds and other debentures issued until October amounted to JD53.5 million. "It is expected that this activity would encourage another number of companies to resort to such tools to finance their future projects," Tareef said.

Noting that the stock exchange has

continued to implement the agreement signed with the Paris Bourse and the French depository centre for modernising the trading mechanism and setting up a depository and transfer centre, Tareef expected trading to be conducted electronically by the end of this year. He explained that the shares of companies will be gradually traded electronically and that this change will have a major positive effect on the efficiency and security of trading and, consequently will enhance confidence in the securities market.

Within the process of mechanising the operations of the AFM and the depository and transfer centre, a special building was rented to serve as a temporary site for the Amman Bourse until the permanent site is completed.

Currently, Tareef said, the practical steps are being taken to equip the temporary building with all the technical equipment and networks including a movable screen and offices for brokers.

### Iran to borrow \$1 billion for agriculture investment

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) There's a good chance that you've got a cold. It's unusual for an Aries to get sick, so you may not recognise it. You may just be feeling lazy and beating yourself up about it. Stop that! You hereby have permission to stay in bed and watch TV.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) There's good information coming in today. Your mind is like a sponge, soaking up everything you can find. Don't waste your memory banks on trivia. Remember the old computer jargon about garbage in, garbage out? Well, stay away from the garbage dump today.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) There's money coming into your account today. You want to spend it on travel. If you're not careful, you might spend it on travel before you actually get the money. That is not usually a good idea, but today it could work. Have a great time while you're at it.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) People are noticing what you've been doing, and they're favourably impressed. Don't get a swelled head, though. What's more important is the money you're able to put in the bank. Do that first, before you go to the mall. Don't forget to stash some into a savings account you can't get at.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) There might be some serious shopping to do. Get a Cancer or Taurus friend to help with a big purchasing decision. You might wind up buying something that's damaged or used, but that's OK. Once you polish it up, nobody will know you paid half price for it.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You could find yourself on a tour or a cruise or a volunteer committee. Think of whatever you like to do, then do it. It looks like there's service involved, which is not at all unusual for you. So get out and take care of others and you'll make a lot of great friends in the process.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Your assignment today is to provide what's required. Pay attention to what an older person needs and see if there's some way you can help. Good deeds you do now will be repaid to you later. That's not always the case, but this time is looks like a pretty even trade.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Travel and romance are the theme. In fact, you could be halfway across the country by now. Or you could travel via video, which would work just as well. And less chance of losing your luggage! Either way, you must have a romantic, exciting interlude. That's top priority no matter where you are.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Figure out how much money you've got and make up a list of all the stuff you need to buy, including educational expenses. Money from savings might even be used to buy new tools or equipment. That's OK. That's what you've been saving it for.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Sometimes you get so busy there's no time for affection. Well, there will be time today, if you make it happen. This doesn't have to be romantic love. It could be the love of a parent for a child, or the love of a kid for his dog. Whatever your object of affection, you need to let him or her know.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Investigate ways to save money. For example, if you have fruit trees, there's no reason you should ever have to buy fruit. There's work involved, but you can put up what you need for later. If that's to a good analogy for you, think of a better one... and get busy!

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You're likely to get bold and outspoken this evening, probably in a romantic setting. So make a date with someone with whom you'd like to make a lifelong commitment. If you're already in a lifelong commitment with that person, so much the better.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

## Jordanian businessmen prepare to visit Palestinian areas next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) is currently preparing for a visit, expected in the first week of March, by Jordanian exporters, industrialists and investors to the Palestine self-rule areas.

Noting that the visit aims at further bolstering bilateral economic cooperation, JTA's Vice President Kamal Daqish said the Jordanian delegation that plans to visit the Palestinian territories will represent a great number of Jordanian firms dealing with various industries.

He said the visit is bound to boost ties between the

private sectors in Jordan and Palestine, and to increase the volume of trade exchange between the two sides.

Daqish indicated that the delegation will hold contacts with Palestinian officials and government institutions including the chambers of commerce and industry and the Palestine Businessmen Association and the ministry of industry and trade among others.

He said the JTA has started making arrangements for meetings between the private business communities during the March visit not

ing that the delegation will be visiting the cities of Jenin, Nablus, Hebron, Tulkarm, Ramallah, Gaza and Bethlehem as well as Jerusalem.

JTA Director General Halim Abu Rahmeh said the visit coincides with some positive developments like the recent agreement on exempting products exported to Palestine from customs duty, extending the hours of duty on the King Hussein Bridge for two more hours and opening the bridge for six hours on holidays and Fridays to help facilitate trade.

Abu Rahmeh referred to

the minutes of deliberations at a meeting of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee last September saying that the two sides took very important decisions relevant to economic cooperation and boosting trade and facilities for financing trade and for visit exchanges between business on both sides.

Abu Rahmeh announced that the JTA will organise a special seminar on trade between Jordan and Palestine in the coming few weeks to be attended by officials from both sides.

Abu Rahmeh referred to

A.F.M TRADE Sunday, 24-01-99  
ACCESS 4646868

Company	Open Price	Close Price	Change
<b>BANKS</b>			
ARAB BK	217.250	217.750	+ 0.23%
NTL BK	1.650	1.640	- 0.65%
LBK OF JO	1.230	1.230	0.00%
MIDDLE EAST BK	1.030	1.060	+ 2.91%
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK	1.440	1.490	+ 3.47%
THE HOUSING BK	2.800	2.810	+ 0.36%
JO. KUWAIT BK	1.660	1.660	0.00%
JO. ISLAMIC BK	1.890	1.730	+ 2.37%
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.630	0.630	0.00%
<b>BANKS INDEX</b>			
	284.780	point =	+0.30%
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
ARABIAN SEAS INS	1.050	1.060	+ 0.95%
JO. FRENCH INS	2.700	2.690	- 0.37%
AHLIA INS	1.160	1.100	- 5.17%
<b>INSURANCE INDEX</b>			
	126.030	point =	- 0.27%
<b>SERVICES INDEX</b>			
	111.390	point =	- 0.08%
<b>INDUSTRY</b>			
CEMENT	3.570	3.720	+ 4.20%
PHOSPHATE	1.570	2.050	+ 4.57%
ARAB POTASH	3.780	3.840	+ 5.07%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.530	10.530	0.00%
THE IND. COMB. AGRIC	1.080	1.080	0.00%
WORSTED MILLS	6.450	6.300	- 2.75%
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	2.910	3.000	+ 3.09%
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.230	1.240	+ 0.81%
ARAB CHEMICAL DETER	7.060	7.020	- 0.43%
DAR AL DAWA	6.200	6.480	+ 5.00%
MIDDLE EAST COMPLEX	0.560	0.580	+ 1.75%
JO. STEEL	0.950	0.960	+ 1.05%
ARAB ALUMINUM	1.860	1.900	+ 2.15%
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.400	0.410	+ 2.50%
INTL IND	0.350	0.360	+ 2.86%
PETRO - CHEMICAL	0.330	0.330	0.00%
CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE	0.970	1.020	+ 5.15%
ROCKWOOL	0.290	0.290	0.00%
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	1.040	1.000	- 3.85%
SULPHO - CHEMICALS	0.370	0.380	+ 2.70%
ARAB CENTER FOR PHAR	1.300	1.250	- 0.77%
TEL - ZAY	1.300	1.300	0.00%
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.680	0.700	+ 2.94%
NTL ALUMINUM	0.700	0.700	0.00%
<b>INDUSTRY INDEX</b>			
	92.590	point =	+3.50%
<b>PARALLEL</b>			
ZEXPORT BK (75)	0.900	0.890	- 1.11%
JO. TRADING FACILITIES	0.410	0.400	- 2.44%
UNION INVEST. CORP	0.730	0.740	+ 1.37%
AL - EKSAL	0.800	0.800	0.00%
ADVANCED PHAR	0.550	0.540	- 1.82%
AL - SHARQ	1.030	1.000	- 2.91%
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.370	0.360	- 2.70%
AL - DAWLILAH	0.580	0.590	+ 1.72%
ARAB INT'L TRADE	0.210	0.210	0.00%
OPTICAL & AUDIAL	0.410	0.410	0.00%
NAMICO	0.260	0.260	0.00%
ZMIDDLE EAST PHAR (80)	0.590	0.610	+ 3.39%
UNION TOBACCO	3.010	3.030	+ 0.66%
AL - RAZI	0.550	0.560	0.00%
<b>GRAND INDEX</b>			
	179.6	point =	+1.09%

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The governing

board which will supervise the activities of the Amman Bourse will be elected next month by the general assembly of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), a spokesman of the bourse said Sunday.

Abdul Rahman Touqan, chairman of the bourse's establishment board, said the seven-member board will replace the current management of the stock market.

Touqan indicated that three seats will be allocated to the brokers in the market and four seats divided equally between the Jordan Securities Commission and commercial banks listed on the stock market.

"Our main objective is to help activate investment in the bourse as well as supervise the trading activity," Touqan told the Jordan Times.

The 1998 Securities Law stipulates the establishment of a Securities Commission, an Amman Bourse and a Depository and Transfer Centre, which will all cooperate in running the upcoming bourse, scheduled to be launched on March 11.

The state-run Amman Financial Market (AFM) now oversees the bourse with a regulatory role. It will be replaced by a new private sector bourse.

Touqan said the bourse management will be an "independent entity" that will find the proper tools to activate the circulation of stocks in the bourse.

It will also prepare for replacing the current manual method of trading by a computerised system along with other regulations to operate the bourse, he added.

The Marketing Manager

Fax No.5858111 R. 309

Large Apartment For Rent

A first floor of only two-floor nice building

147, Zahran street, near the 5th Circle - the best secured residential area - The apartment is completely furnished, nicely decorated & fully equipped.

If interested please call : 5932509

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

IN

## SAUDI ARABIA

A leading Saudi firm in the field of telecommunication, security Services and Low Current Systems is seeking

## Sales Engineers

with the following minimum qualifications:

# Philippoussis picks Enqvist-Agassi final

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Sweden's Thomas Enqvist underlined his claim to the Australian Open title with a compelling five-set win over Mark Philippoussis here Sunday.

The unseeded Enqvist, who knocked out U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter in the third round, triumphed 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 4-6, 6-2 over the 14th seeded Philippoussis. Philippoussis later said only fifth seeded Andre Agassi could prevent Enqvist from winning the title.

"I can't see anyone hurting Thomas except for Andre," said Australia's last hope for tournament.

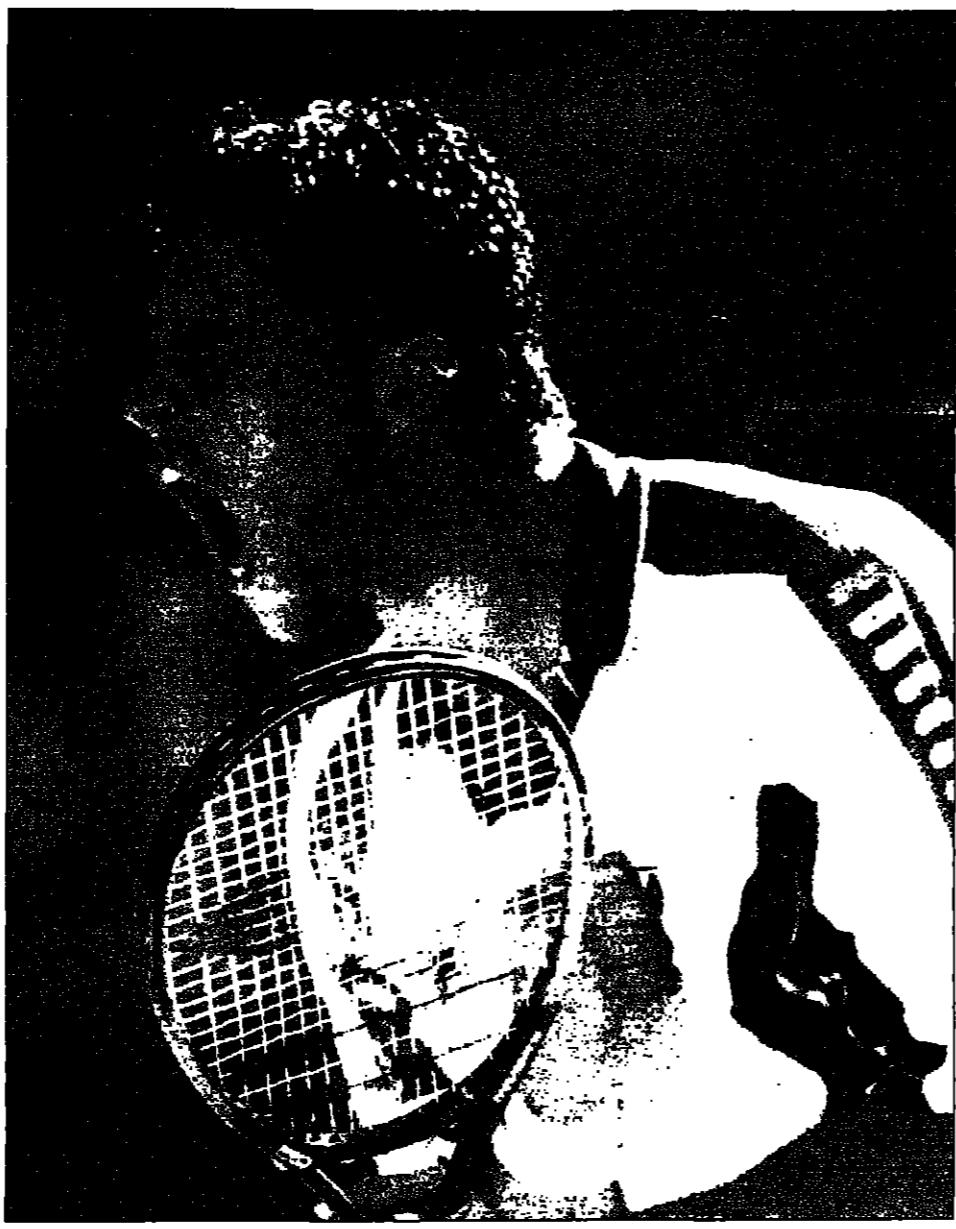
Enqvist and Agassi look now as if they could meet in next Sunday's final.

Only four men's seeds — Agassi (5), Karol Kucera (7), Yevgeny Kafelnikov (10) and Todd Martin (15) — qualified for the quarter-finals after an opening week which saw defending champion Petr Korda dumped out in the third round.

Korda returns to the Czech Republic a chastened man with his career in doubt after being dragged through the grinder over a steroid test he failed at last year's Wimbledon.

Ironically, the man to send him home was Todd Martin, the American president of the ATP Players' Council who had convinced his fellow professionals on the eve of the championships Korda should be allowed to play.

Jim Courier, a former world number one and double champion here, even went so far as to suggest other players may be using the undetectable EPO drug cyclists take to



Mark Philippoussis of Australia screams in frustration during his match against Thomas Enqvist of Sweden at the Australian Open Tennis Championships, Melbourne, Australia, on Sunday. Philippoussis lost the match 6-2, 6-4, 6-7, (3-7), 4-6, 6-2. (AP photo)

improve stamina.

International Tennis Federation president Brian Tobin was forced to call a press conference to deny drugs was a major problem in tennis.

But he agreed the Korda let-off had been badly han-

dled. Top seed Marcelo Rios of Chile and No. 10 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia withdrew injured without playing on the opening day, raising concerns the Australian Open was too early in a long season.

World No. 1 Pete Sampras had already decided to opt out for that very reason.

The biggest losers were the Spanish, whose 14 men's players were all sunk by the second round. They included French

Open champion and No. 4 seed Carlos Moya and second seed Alex Corretja, who had won the ATP world championship in Germany in November.

Neither of their executioners — Nicolas Kiefer of Germany and Christian Ruud of Norway — progressed into the second week.

The most impressive players to emerge from the first week were Agassi and Kucera, neither of whom dropped a set.

Agassi, who has had to climb out of a deep hole to get back among the top 10, believes he is playing his best tennis since losing to Sampras in the 1995 US Open final.

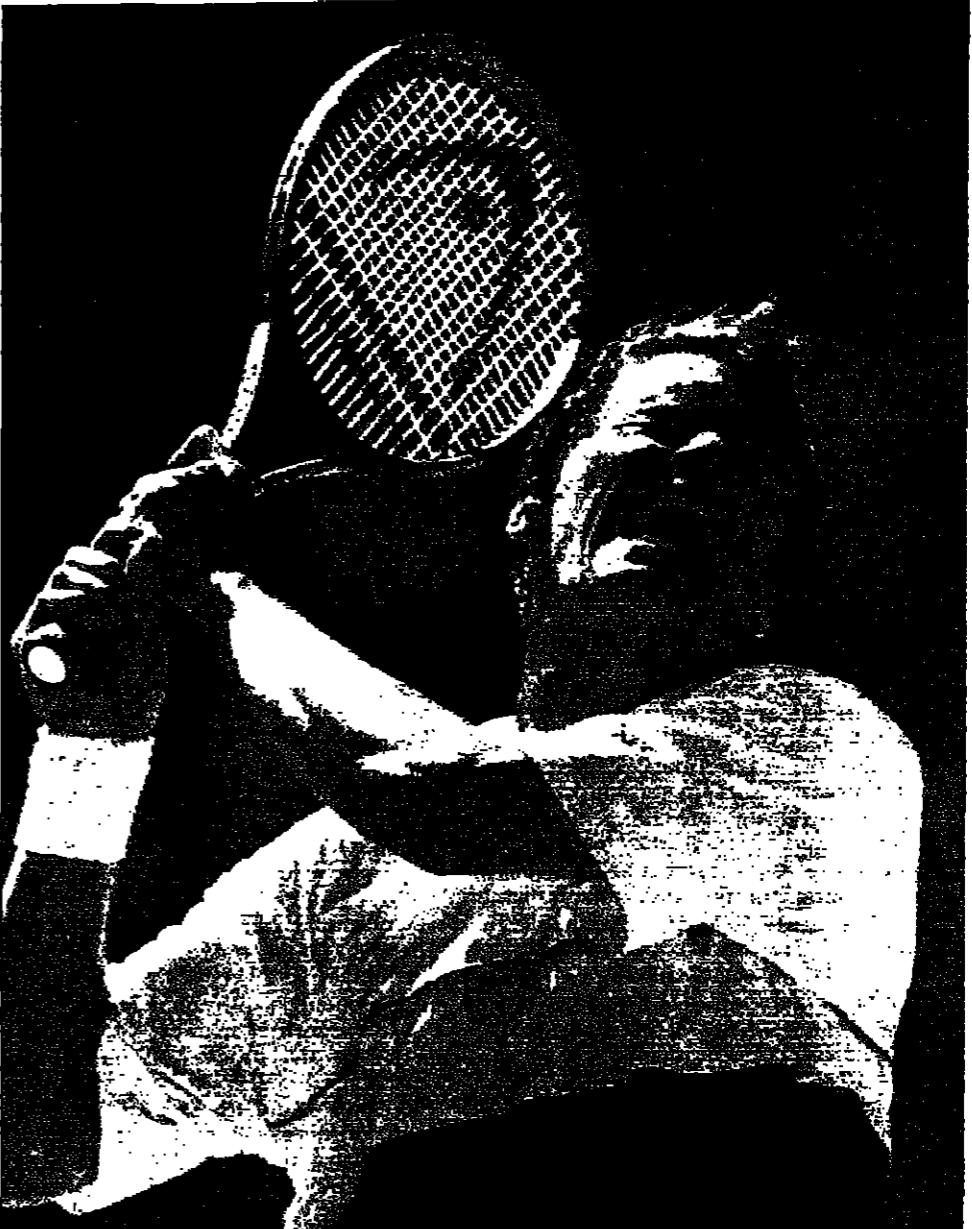
The statistics prove he was the best player under pressure, having saved and converted more break points than anyone. Kucera ranked second best.

In the women's singles, Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, the third seed who was playing here for the first time in three years, and French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain were early casualties but generally the seedings went to form.

U.S. Open champion Lindsay Davenport set up a quarter-final date with No. 5 Venus Williams.

Second seed and defending champion Martina Hingis should line up against No. 7 Mary Pierce, while Monica Seles and Steffi Graf were likely to renew their rivalry in the last eight, although both felt they had yet to produce their best tennis.

The only surprise was the unseeded Amelie Mauresmo of France.



Thomas Enqvist of Sweden screams during his match against Mark Philippoussis of Australia at the Australian Open Tennis Championships, Melbourne, Australia, on Sunday. Enqvist won the match 6-2, 6-4, 6-7, (3-7), 4-6, 6-2. (AP photo)

Second seed and defending champion Martina Hingis should line up against No. 7 Mary Pierce, while Monica Seles and Steffi Graf were likely to renew their rivalry in the last eight, although both felt they had yet to produce their best tennis.

The 19-year-old will play Belgium's Dominique Van Roost, the 11th seed, in her first Grand Slam quarter-final. Van Roost, yet to play on a show court, proved herself the best pressure-player going

into the women's quarter-finals.

But the biggest talking point in the women's draw was Anna Kournikova's case of the yips.

The Russian 12th seed has lost her serve. She

chalked up an Australian Open record 31 double faults against Japan's Miho Saeki, who still failed to win, before squeezing through to a fourth round match with Pierce on Monday.

## Davenport sinks Drake, sets course for Venus



Venus Williams of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, shoots back during her match against fellow American Chanda Rubin of Lafayette, La., at the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne, Australia, on Sunday. Williams won the match 7-6, 6-4. (AP photo)

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Women's top seed Lindsay Davenport swept into the quarter-finals with a crushing 6-1, 6-3 win in 47 minutes over Canadian qualifier Maureen Drake in the fourth round of the Australian Open here Sunday.

The U.S. Open champion and World No. 1, who has yet to drop a set, now plays fifth seed and fellow American Venus Williams in Tuesday's quarter-finals.

"It's tough to tell what form I'm in. I'm just playing solid tennis and have done what is needed to win. But I haven't done anything extraordinary," she said.

"The tactics will be to force errors rather than make winners," added Davenport, who has a 6-1 record over Williams.

"She plays fast so I will need to hit the ball deep."

Williams said after beating fellow American Chanda Rubin she was ready for a fight.

"I'm going to have to move forward and take my opportunities. I've got to step up and show I'm ready to do battle," said the 18-year-old, who reached at least the quarter-finals of all four Grand Slam tournaments last year.

Williams lost to Davenport at both the Australian and U.S. Open quarter-finals last year, as well as in finals at Stanford, USA, and Zurich.

"I suppose she has played the big points better but I have improved," she warned.

"I'll approach the match like any other match. I realise it will be the quarter-final of a Grand Slam and against the world No. 1, but I have some rights of my own. I have something to take with me."

## Sampras sleeping easy with ranking safe

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Pete Sampras will be sleeping easy Sunday, his grip on world tennis safe.

A week into the Australian Open, just four men's seeds remain in the tournament and none of them can topple the exhausted world No. 1 from his mantle.

Mid-week the statisticians announced that four players — Alex Corretja, Carlos Moya, Pat Rafter and Andre Agassi — were in with a chance of becoming king.

Come Sunday only Agassi remained and he cannot make it. Even if he wins the title there are not enough top names left for him to compile the 26 bonus points needed.

The seeds have been falling at such a rate that if Todd Martin had lost his third round clash with Petr Korda late Friday, there would have been fewer seeds in a Grand Slam fourth round than at any other time in the Open era.

Local favourite Pat Rafter blew his chance in the third round when Thomas Enqvist stole the thunder. All Rafter had to do was make the final and the ultimate tennis accolade, plus the commercial opportunities that accompany it, was his. It was much the same story for Moya, while the task for Spain's Corretja was even easier. A semi-final berth would have almost cer-

tainly done the job. In such a competitive environment, today's tennis professionals live and die by the computer points that determine their rankings, but to the average punter it's all a bit confusing.

The number-crunchers here explain the system works on a one-year

cycle, with points won the previous season deducted at the corresponding tournament the following year.

Players compile points for tournaments in seven different categories, with a Grand Slam win worth 770 and a junior title just 30. Bonus points are awarded for beating play-

ers in the top 200.

For example, bear Sampras and its worth 50 points, overcome the world number 100 and you only get two.

Sampras of course knows this and will not only be sleeping soundly, but probably with a smile on his face.

Next to the quirky Korda piece it claimed Anna Kournikova has a striking resemblance to her president, Boris Yeltsin, whose sole piece of exercise in recent years has been weight training.

It's prime head shots of both, and well ... it's not a bad call.

Dominique Van Roost has been named Sport Personality of the Year in her native Belgium and awarded the Golden Victor by the country's media.

Van Roost, who has reached the quarter-finals at the Australian Open, beat off the challenges of Belgium's premier sportsmen, Atlanta Olympic and World swimming champion Fred Deburghgraeve, world judo champion Gella Van Decaveye, club football coach Eric Gerets and cycling star Johan Museeuw.

<b>CINEMA</b> PHILADELPHIA '1'	TEL: 463-3144	<b>CINEMA</b> PHILADELPHIA '2'	TEL: 463-4144	<b>CINEMA</b> PLAZA	TEL: 3699238	<b>CINEMA</b> CONCORDE	TEL: 5677420	<b>CINEMA</b> GALLERIA 1	TEL: 5934793	<b>CINEMA</b> GALLERIA 2	TEL: 5934793	<b>Risham Yanes Theatre</b>
Bruce Willis .. in		Adel Imam, Wafa' Amer & Kamal Shinawi .. in		Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in		Adel Imam, Wafa' Amer & Kamal Shinawi .. in		ABDOUN	www.cns.com.jo/Galleria	ABDOUN	www.cns.com.jo/Galleria	
MERCURY RISING	Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:15, 3:30, 12:30	ALWAD MAHROUS TBA' AL WAZIR	Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:15, 3:30, 12:30	SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ALWAD MAHROUS TBA' AL WAZIR	Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Mel Gibson .. in		One of Walt Disney's best movies		
								LETHAL WEAPON 4	Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	MULAN	Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play
<b>TODAY</b>												

Listings for films and showing times as received by cinemas and their advertising agencies.

## Yorke and Solskjaer pounce to shatter Liverpool

LONDON (AFP) — Two goals in the last three minutes by Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer gave Manchester United a dramatic 2-1 victory over bitter rivals Liverpool in their FA Cup fourth round showdown at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Michael Owen had headed Liverpool in front after only three minutes and United had looked to be on their way out until Yorke tapped home a deserved equaliser with two minutes left.

Solskjaer, who was sent on for the last seven minutes by coach Alex Ferguson, then sent the 54,000 Old Trafford crowd into a frenzy when he drilled in the winner in time added on.

Holders Arsenal were due to play Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux later on Sunday.

The big shock on Saturday saw second division Fulham knock out joint Premiership leaders Aston Villa 2-0 at Villa Park.

Liverpool caught United napping in the opening minutes. Norwegian wing-back Sigurd Heigem overlapped down the right and pinpointed his cross onto the head of an unmarked Owen who guided the ball down past United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel and into the net.

United were almost level after 20 minutes when Roy Keane's header from a tight

angle brushed the post before bouncing off Liverpool's Paul Ince on the line and into the grateful arms of keeper David James.

But Liverpool were soaking up what pressure there

ing shot from 30 metres which dipped narrowly over Schmeichel's bar.

Right on half-time Jamie Redknapp showed persistence down the left and Czech international Patrik Berger brought a smart

at United's Great Dane as the visitors finished the half well on top.

United came out bristling after the interval and Ryan Giggs almost poached an equaliser within five minutes after David Beckham's



Manchester United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (3rd right) celebrates with teammates after scoring the winning goal for his team during their FA Cup 4th round clash against Liverpool at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Sunday (AP photo)

was without difficulty and almost made it 2-0 before half-time when Robbie Fowler hit a first-time curl-

near-post save out of Schmeichel. Ince, playing against his old team, headed the resulting corner straight

teasing cross.

Fowler also missed a good chance for Liverpool at the other end soon after but

United's Great Dane was lucky on the hour when Keane's 18-metre drive deflected agonisingly past James' post.

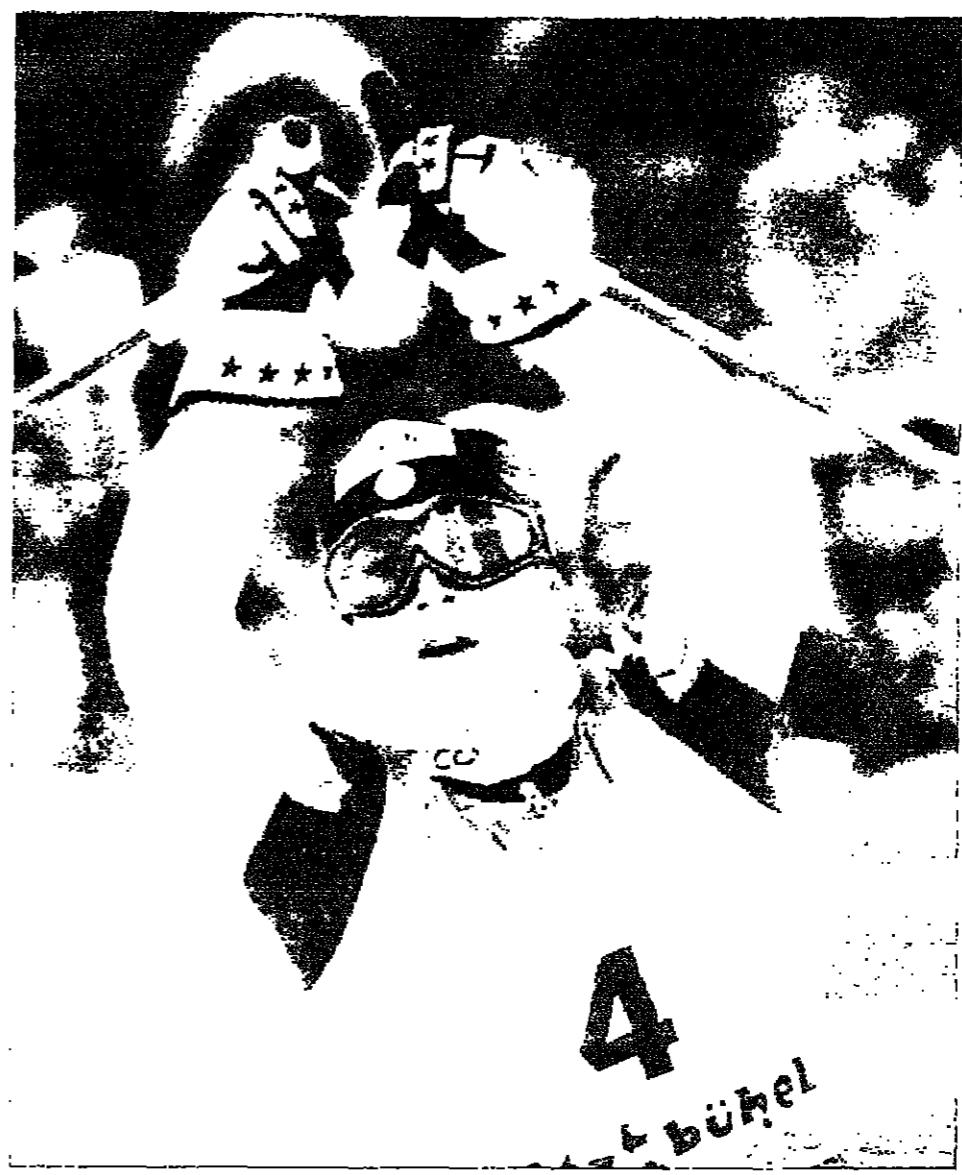
Fowler casually lost pos-

session five minutes later and United's Andy Cole saw his shot on the turn deflected over the bar by Jamie Carragher. United brought on Paul Scholes to add some craft up front and Liverpool were again fortunate when Gary Neville's cross was sliced straight at his own goalkeeper by Liverpool defender Dominic Matteo.

Keane was once again left cursing his luck after 80 minutes when his 15-metre effort cannoned off James' right-hand post while Fowler should have done better at the other end from substitute Jason McAteer's late cross.

Ferguson threw on super-sub Solskjaer as his last resort and United finally claimed their equaliser two minutes from time. Cole headed Beckham's free-kick into the path of Yorke, who couldn't miss his 17th goal of the season.

Then, with a replay looking inevitable, Solskjaer lashed in a low near post effort after Scholes had controlled the ball in the area and United, somehow, were through.



Slovenia's Jure Kosir reacts after crossing the finish line to take first place in the men's slalom World Cup race in Kitzbuhel, Austria, on Sunday (AP photo)

## Nothing slovenly about Kosir as he takes slalom

KITZBUHEL, Austria (AP) — Slovenian skier Jure Kosir won the men's World Cup slalom race here on Sunday posting a time of 1min 36.40sec.

The 26-year-old, the 1994 Olympic bronze medallist in the event, beat Swiss racer Didier Plasch by four-hundredths of a second with Giorgio Rocca of Italy third just seven-hundredths of a second in arrears.

The first leg claimed some notable victims with the Austrian duo of dual Olympic gold medallist Hermann Maier and rising star Benjamin Raich crashed out, along with Norway's Olympic title-holder Hans-Peter Burau.

## IOC investigation drags into second day

SUZANNE, Switzerland (AP) — IOC leaders held a general meeting Sunday to decide whether members should be expelled in connection with the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

A six-man IOC investigative panel concluded its report Sunday morning into the cash payments, scholarships and other favours connected with Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Games.

The panel, which met for 15 hours Saturday and reconvened early Sunday, reported its findings to the IOC executive board.

IOC officials said the executive board began its own meeting to consider the evidence and make final recommendations.

Officials said the IOC planned to go ahead with a scheduled news conference at 7 p.m. (1800 GMT), where IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch is due to announce proposed expulsions of members and reforms of the Olympic site-selection process.

Anita DeFrantz, an IOC vice president and executive board member from the United States, said Sunday's meetings will be vital for the future of the Olympics.

"My hope is the athletes of the world understand we're very serious about making sure the games continue," she said as she left her hotel for IOC headquarters.

"Sydney will host the (2000) games, Salt Lake will host the (2002) games. Anyone who violates their oath of office

can't be a part of the Olympic movement. The end."

The credibility of the IOC — and the future of the games themselves — was at stake as officials sought to close the internal probe into the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

Thirteen members were cited for accepting inducements — reportedly totaling close to \$800,000 — from Salt Lake boosters.

Two of the 13 members — Finland's Pirjo Haeggman and Libya's Bashir Mohammed Attarabulsi — resigned this week. Samaranch said another seven could face expulsion orders.

The IOC said six members

appeared before the inquiry commission in person Saturday to defend themselves. They were not identified.

Members who didn't appear

will be judged on written replies submitted earlier to the IOC.

The recommendations of the

board will be put to a special meeting of the general assembly March 17-18.

If members found guilty of corruption refuse to resign, their case will go to the assembly, where a two-thirds vote is required for expulsion.

Several of the implicated members have said they will fight rather than be ousted.

Jean-Claude Ganga of the Republic of Congo, who has been accused of accepting at least \$70,000 of cash inducements, has defiantly proclaimed his innocence and vowed he'll never resign.

Sergio Santander, the IOC member from Chile who was among the six delegates questioned Saturday, said he did nothing wrong and indicated he had no plans to quit.

"I am certain that I didn't act incorrectly at any moment."

Santander told reporters in Lusitania Sunday. "Whatever happens today, I will stay in a calm and secure position in the belief that truth will prevail."

Santander was implicated after Tom Welsh, the former Salt Lake bid and organising committee chief, said he

donated \$10,000 to

the IOC.

Van Roos has been

awarded the Golden

Medal, who has reached

athletes' premier

and World student

athletes' premier

## Arafat may consider delaying statehood declaration — officials

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Yasser Arafat would consider delaying a statehood declaration if the European Union (EU) and the United States recognise a Palestinian state and Israel meets certain conditions, Palestinian officials said on Sunday.

They said representatives of the 15-nation EU have recently met discreetly with Palestinian officials and suggested Arafat postpone declaration of a state from May to an unspecified date.

Arafat has said that he reserves the right to proclaim an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on May 4, when a five-year interim period for negotiating a permanent settlement with Israel expires under the Oslo accords.

"Arafat is willing to consider delaying a Palestinian state until December this year if the EU and the U.S. recognise the state, and if Israel meets certain Palestinian demands," said a Palestinian official, who spoke

on condition of anonymity. "These demands include freezing Jewish settlement building, on occupied Palestinian land and implementing the Wye River deal," the official said, referring to the land-for-security accord signed in October and which Israel suspended last month.

In addition, the official said, Arafat wanted an international commitment to accept Dec. 31 as the new deadline to conclude the interim deals signed with Israel.

"If we have international commitments to accept a new date such as Dec. 31, then we would delay. If we don't have a deal with Israel by then, we then have the right to declare a state that should be recognised by the world," another official said.

A senior EU delegation plans to hold talks with the Palestinian president next week in Europe on a comprehensive proposal in return for putting off a unilateral declaration, Palestinian officials said.



HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS: Malaysian Hindu devotee Sugunadewi Kumaran puts final touches on a doll Sunday as part of Thaipuam preparation at Kuala Lumpur's Batu Caves Temple. The centuries-old festival, in honour of Hindu god Murugan, will be celebrated Jan. 31 by Hindus throughout Malaysia with more fervour here than back in India, where the practice has almost died out. Devotees observe a rigorous regimentation of spirituality in a month-long run to Thaipuam, including dawn-to-dusk fasts and a vegetarian diet (Reuters photo)

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Two dead, four injured in Algeria attacks

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two people were killed and four injured in Algeria on Friday and Saturday in two attacks blamed on armed Islamists, press reports said Sunday. Two army conscripts had their throats slit Friday evening by a group of armed Islamists at a fake roadblock set up on a main road near the town of Taourirt in the Bouira region, 120 kilometres east of Algiers. Local security forces intervened and chased off the group, consisting of a dozen men. One security force member was wounded in a gunfire exchange with the Islamists, newspapers reported. On Saturday evening, three people in a car were seriously injured when their vehicle hit a bomb placed on the roadside near the coastal town of Ain Tagourit, west of Algiers. In addition, the government-run daily Al Moudjahid said two of its newspaper delivery staff narrowly escaped death Saturday morning after being stopped at a fake roadblock near Souk Al Had, some 60 kilometres from Algiers.

#### 'Sudan plane bombs rebel-held town'

NAIROBI (R) — A Sudan air force plane dropped 10 bombs on the rebel-held town of Yei, in southern Sudan on Sunday, the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) said in Nairobi. According to the SPLA spokesman, the bombs narrowly missed the local hospital, but killed two women and a four-year-old child. Last week the SPLA reported a similar bombing attack on nearby Kaji Kaji, close to the Uganda border.

#### Thousands remember slain journalist

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Thousands of Turks turned out across the country Sunday to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the murder of a prominent journalist and to demand that his killers be found and brought to justice. Ugur Mumcu, a reporter for the daily Cumhuriyet who had been investigating links between the mafia and the state, was killed by a bomb placed in his car in Ankara on Jan. 24, 1993. The murder is widely believed to have been committed by gangs operating with the implicit consent of the state and licensed to kill political dissenters, but no arrests have yet been made. At ceremonies in several cities on Sunday, mourners carried candles and pictures of Mumcu, and laid flowers and wreaths at memorial stones for the journalist.

#### Iraqi MPs to resume debate on Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's parliament will resume a debate on Tuesday on whether the country should continue to recognise its 1991 Gulf war for Kuwait and demarcation of borders between the two states, a senior MP said on Sunday. "The National Assembly will hold an extraordinary session to debate a number of issues, among them Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and borders between the two countries," said Khalid Al Douri, head of the parliament's Arab and Foreign Relations Committee. Douri said Iraq had met its commitments toward Kuwait but the emirate had not met its obligations toward Baghdad.

## Mordechai firing leaves 'dangerous vacuum' — analysts

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Yitzhak Mordechai's removal as defence minister silenced one of the last moderates in Israel's government and fuelled fears Sunday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could be tempted into costly military actions to boost his troubled re-election campaign.

"The firing of Mordechai has created a dangerous security vacuum," warned Zeev Schiff, the respected military analyst for the Haaretz newspaper.

This security vacuum involves all the various arms of the military establishment, not just the defence ministry, and endangers various security interests," he said.

Netanyahu fired Mordechai late Saturday after the popular defence minister and former general moved to leave the ruling Likud party and join a new

centrist group to run for the prime ministership in May elections.

The split between the former allies was the severest blow yet to Netanyahu's hope for re-election following a series of defections by other senior Likud malcontents.

Mordechai was considered

the most moderate minister in a government dominated by nationalist hawks and he constantly pressed Netanyahu, albeit unsuccessfully, to implement land-for-peace agreements with the Palestinians.

Military and political analysts noted Sunday that Mordechai had during his tenure also played a key role in preventing heavy-handed military operations sought by cabinet hardliners against the Palestinians, Lebanon, Syria

and even Iraq.

More recently Arens, who

responded to such a move by annexing parts of the West Bank still under Israel's control, an action that could spark widespread violence.

In Lebanon, a recent escalation in attacks on soldiers guarding the Israeli-occupied buffer zone in the south of the country prompted several ministers to call for harsh retaliation against Lebanese civilian targets and Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon.

Military and defence ministry officials expressed concern in recent weeks that Netanyahu could be tempted to launch such attacks as a way of boosting his political standing.

Mordechai led opposition from the defence establishment to such reprisals, arguing they could lead to open conflict with Syria.

## Turkey's PM calls for closer consultations with U.S. on Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit on Sunday criticised U.S. policy on Iraq as "vague" and called for closer consultations with the United States.

"We are the country most affected by the ongoing crisis," Ecevit said in an interview on the NTV news channel. "We are worried about the danger of a war." "I think we need a dialogue with the United States to overcome the vagueness of their policy," Ecevit said. "We want to build a deeper dialogue with the United States."

In an interview with the daily Cumhuriyet published on Sunday, Ecevit said he was working on an alternative plan for the region.

"We don't really understand yet what the U.S. want to do," Ecevit told the paper.

"We must have a plan for the region."

The prime minister said he was currently updating an earlier policy paper from his time in the opposition.

The plan includes reassuring Baghdad about its territorial integrity, lifting the embargo if Iraq complies with U.N. resolutions, and helping to start a dialogue between Baghdad and Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, Ecevit said.

Ecevit also reiterated his

reservations about the U.S. plan to assist Iraqi opposition groups in destabilising President Saddam Hussein.

"Ricciardone will certainly

not work in Turkey," he said, referring to the current number two at Washington's embassy in Ankara, Frank Ricciardone, who was recently named special representative for transition in

Iraq.

"Turkey cannot be the place for this," Ecevit said.

The U.S. embassy earlier this week said Ricciardone would leave Ankara shortly and be based in Washington.

Turkey fears that Iraq may

break up if Saddam Hussein is removed from power, leading to a Kurdish state being set up in northern Iraq and fanning unrest in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast.

Ankara is also worried about the rising tensions between its southern neighbour the United States in the "no-fly" zone in northern Iraq. U.S. personnel this week installed a battery of Patriot missiles at the Turkish air base of Incirlik.

Turkey had asked for the missiles as protection against a possible Iraqi attack.

The political prisoners have reiterated that their hunger strike was launched after 17 months of detention without trial or charges and after all decisions and promises to free them have been ignored," the organisation said in a statement.

"This is the fourth time prisoners in Jæid prison have staged a hunger strike. Some prisoners were released on Jan. 17," the legal group said.

## Palestinian prisoners begin hunger strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian political prisoners in a Palestinian jail in the West Bank city of Nablus began a hunger strike on Sunday to protest against their detention without trial, an international legal group said.

Law Society, an affiliate of

the International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva, said 64 political prisoners in Jæid prison in self-ruled Nablus were on hunger strike.

"The political prisoners have

reiterated that their hunger strike was launched after 17 months of detention without trial or charges and after all decisions and promises to free them have been ignored," the organisation said in a statement.

"Law Society has repeatedly

stated that it opposes political detention on grounds that it is illegal and violates human rights and calls on the PNA to immediately free all political detainees," Law Society said.

Last week, Arafat freed sev-

eral key Hamas and Islamic

Jihad figures as a goodwill gesture for the Muslim feast,

"Eid Al Fitr."

Last month the Palestinian

Legislative Council (PLC)

gave the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) two weeks

to free around 450 political prisoners from its jails or face a vote of no confidence. The PLC is scheduled to meet this week.

The PNA has come under

sharp criticism from human rights organisations over the

arrest of members of

Palestinian opposition groups,

mainly of them from the

Islamist movement Hamas.

"Law Society has repeatedly

stated that it opposes political

detention on grounds that it is

illegal and violates human

rights and calls on the PNA to

immediately free all political

detainees," Law Society said.

Last week, Arafat freed sev-

eral key Hamas and Islamic

Jihad figures as a goodwill

gesture for the Muslim feast,

"Eid Al Fitr."

El PASO (R) — Counterfeit parking permits for reserved handicapped spaces are flooding into this southwest Texas city from across the border in Mexico, city officials say.

The fake parking cards cost

only \$10 but look very

authentic," said Victor

Flores, El Paso county tax

assessor. Genuine handi-

capped parking cards,

which are hung on the rear-

view mirror, only cost \$5 in

El Paso County. But for the

many Mexican citizens who

cross into El Paso everyday

for work or leisure, the per-

mits have become more diffi-

cult to acquire since state

law was changed in 1997 to

require a signature from

Texas-licensed physicians.

This meant applications for

the cards could no longer

come from doctors in

Mexico, officials said.

Car thieves choose wrong parking place

PRAGUE (AFP) — Car thieves, police in

pursuit, turned their

Mercedes into what

they thought was a good

place Sunday in the city

Trutnov in the east

Czech Republic, but

quickly caught and ar-

rested. It was the police

station's parking lot.

**THE most  
original**



## Hardliners arrested in Iran for attacking Americans — report

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian authorities have arrested a number of Islamic extremists for attacking a group of visiting Americans in November, a newspaper reported Sunday.

"The masterminds behind the attack on the 13 Americans were arrested," said a front-page headline in Sobh-e-Emruz (This Morning), a daily run by Saeid Hajarian, a former senior intelligence ministry official.

A group of gun-toting hardliners attacked a bus carrying the Americans in mid-November after accusing them of being "CIA spies." The extremists

broke the windows of the bus, slightly injuring some of the occupants.

The Americans left the country the following day.

A shadowy group calling itself the Fedayeen (Devotees) of Islam claimed responsibility for the assault, issuing further warnings to "CIA spies visiting Iran in the guise of tourists," as well as Iranian authorities inviting them.

Officials and the press condemned the attack, with moderate President Mohammad Khatami describing it as "intolerable."

The Americans had been invited as part of an

DR. J. J. L.